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and about others too*

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Words Like Kites

The kites little boys fly on windy days fly and soar, bob and dart, oftentimes jerk so hard at the string they break away and to their owners are forever lost. Our words are like that, even on the calmest day, for "words once spoke can never be recalled".

Then, does it not behoove us all to speak with care? If all our words were helpful, not hurtful; kind, not uncharitable; good, not evil; we would not need to recall them. It is only the hurtful, stinging word, uttered in haste and anger, that in the light of subsequent events and better judgment we wish we could recall, but find we can not. We must avoid the words at random spoken, knowing that for every idle word we shall be called upon to give account.

How we all hunger to hear the word of kindness spoken! Everyone wants from his fellowman words of cheer, comfort, encouragement, and kindly reproof when correction must come. A modern poet pleading for the kind word now has written—

Withhold all eulogies when I am dead,
All noisy sorrow;
Give me the tender word today instead
Of tears tomorrow.

If we want so to hear such words, shall we not also strive to speak them in our dealings with our fellowman?

We may not be called upon to speak fewer words. (They tell us that conversation is a lost art.) But the words we speak to higher purpose should be said. And if to good and not to evil they are sped, a blessing in very truth they will be to speaker and to hearer. To **"Be Christian"** in word is not only to avoid the badword, but also to speak the best word. And what better word could be spoken than "some, clear, winning word of love?" It is the word-supported deed that shall **"Win Others"** to Christ. And that is an imperative we freely recognize.

But alas for the torrent of words from which no good can come! And which of us has not contributed to that flood? "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man" was the Apostle's observation. Few there are, if any at all, who are not conscious of having offended in word. And doubtless, even these few were not actually free of offense, but simply callous of conscience in such matters. It can accurately be concluded that this is a universal fault. But if to say so is to make easy excuse for the fault and to lull the conscience to sleep, then 'twere better not to do so.

This is the Season of unusual opportunity for seeing ourselves as we really are. The disparity between what we are and what we ought to be will become clearer to us all. And such knowledge should lead the earnest soul to penitence true and thorough-going. Penitence involves us with God and our fellowman. To God let each of us pray, "Lord, forgive the tongue which so oft has offended against Thee."

To our fellowman let each of us turn with the words of the poet on our lips—

Delay not, thou whom I have wounded sore,
Till thou outlive me
To grant the pardon that I here implore;
But now forgive me.

JIM is facing a big decision. Finding the answer is not going to be easy. It is one of the most difficult of all the decisions he will ever make. In fact, it is the most important choice he has been called upon to make thus far in his life. This matter of choosing a life-work that satisfies is so important because a person who makes the wrong choice will never be happy; he will always feel like a square peg trying to fit itself into a round hole. He will live under tension and strain which may ruin his entire life. The course he takes now at high school will very definitely determine the direction in which his abilities and talents will be guided and trained. If his course is not chosen wisely, he will lose years in trying to make it up in order to do the work that is satisfying for him. If he chooses his course wisely, he will be able to go on to further training, if it is necessary, or he will be able to enter the field of his choice upon graduation. It may be that he will decide not to go to high school but to go to a vocational school or a business school for a more thorough and more specific kind of training. This is the thing: it's the most important decision he has ever made, and even though it may not be fully realized until after the war, it is going to bring much satisfaction and happiness if Jim chooses a life-work which he will enjoy.

The Big Question

The big question facing every high school boy or girl is: "What are you going to be?" or "What kind of work are you planning to do?" This question is inevitable. It must be faced by the girls as well as the boys.

Each must accept this solemn obligation. He or she must find a satisfying and appropriate life work early in life. Some writers believe that if a boy or girl has not chosen a satisfying occupation before the age of twenty-five, he or she is likely to drift from one job to another for the rest of his or her life.

This does not mean that a junior high school student must know the specific job he or she will do, but it does mean that it is best early in life to discover the true self and the way to self-fulfillment in a life-work. It means that a fellow should choose his course at school to fit himself to enter some general field, such as science, social service, teaching, the ministry, law or medicine, manual and skilled work, technician, semi-skilled or the unskilled worker. He should be aware of his aptitudes and abilities, his likes and dislikes, his temperament and disposition, his health and his handicaps, so that there is reasonable expectation that life-work of this or that nature will bring him most satisfaction.

Make the Choice Yourself

It follows that because this matter of choosing a life-work that satisfies is so personal and so delicate a matter, you must make the choice. No one else has the right to make another person do something that for the rest of his life he does not enjoy. Such a life-work would be drudgery. In fact, it is nothing less than slavery.

Many times parents think that it is their privilege to decide what Bob or Mary should be when they grow up. In some instances, the parents have decided before the child ever goes to school what he is to be, what college he is to attend, and where he is to work or practice his profession. There are times when parents put the boy or girl at a disadvantage because of the financial obligation involved in preparing for a life-work. Some parents refuse to provide the funds for their children if they do not train themselves according to the desires of the parents. Perhaps a doctor will insist that his son be a doctor; a lawyer will decide that his son must go to law school; a teacher will decide that his or her daughter must be a teacher, etc. When the boy or girl has no desire to follow the parental profession it is a gross mistake for the parent

to insist upon it. This causes more unhappiness and more "occupational misfits" than this world dreams. Indeed, it can create nervous tension and cause complete personality disintegration. It is often the cause of a nervous breakdown, even to the point of insanity. In many cases, failure in school or college is traced to this factor. A person should not be forced to be or do something he has neither the ability nor the desire to be or do.

The reason for parents often insisting that the boy or girl follow the parent's life-work is that they want to provide security for the child or they want to protect the child from the heart-aches, the mistakes, and the unfortunate experiences they have had. In instances where a hard-working parent insists that a child enter a profession—the ministry, for example—we often find that the parent is attempting to have an unfulfilled wish of his own fulfilled in his boy. Parents sometimes try to fulfill their unrealized ambitions through their children. However, parents who deny the boy or girl the privilege of choosing his or her own life-work are unfair; they are bringing much more unhappiness to their children than they imagine.

This does not mean that Ted must utterly disregard the wishes of his parents. That would be utter folly. His parents certainly have had at least the experience of a few more years of living and laboring. His parents have known the struggle for existence and the necessity of providing for the needs of the family. His parents have knowledge of his aptitudes and of his intelligence. His parents can be very valuable in helping him make his decision. Ted will be a wise boy to consider seriously the advice of his parents, but the choice he makes must be his own. He dare not attempt to enter a field only because he wants to please his parents. The wise boy or girl today will regard highly the opinions of his parents and elders, but he will not make this the only basis for his choice of a life calling. There will be other important fac-

CHOOSING A LIFE-WORK

Another In The Series

"Getting Along With The Home Folks"

tors. However, the important principle to be followed is Make the choice yourself. No one else can do it for you.

Choose a Life-Work You Like

If one is going to make the choice himself, he must decide upon a life-work he likes, one that he enjoys, one that will afford him the possibility of success in the light of his own native equipment.

Unhappiness, tension and failure result when a person is in a job he does not enjoy, one in which he does not have the ability and intelligence to succeed. He will not like a job which does not give him the satisfaction of achievement or success. He will not succeed in a job which calls for more intelligence, or more technical skill, or more scientific knowledge, or more skillful handling of tools and machinery than he possesses. Therefore, it is important that each individual scrutinize his native equipment, such as intelligence, temperament, character, personality, health (including physical handicaps—deafness, color blindness, crippled, body hereditary diseases, etc.), sight, talents and abilities.

In addition to a person's native equipment (those things with which he was born) he must consider environmental

factors, such as, the possibility of further schooling, as well as the possibility of work in a certain locality.

Bill will have to consider the cost of college and even graduate study if he wishes to enter the ministry, law or medicine. Not only must he take his four years of college (perhaps after the war it will be less than four years), but he will have to spend several years in a graduate school. It will be necessary to secure the necessary funds needed for college, either through scholarship aid, through part-time work, or through his parents.

Jack may wish to go to a vocational school or business college. It will be necessary for him to find the location of such schools, to estimate the cost of board and meals as well as the cost of tuition. Mary may wish to be a dress designer for an exclusive shop, but she will also have to consider the cost of such training and the place where the best possible training can be had.

However, after the school has been chosen, one must consider the need or demand for the life-work one has chosen. It may be necessary for Bill to live in a large city if he wishes to be a corporation lawyer. Jack may have to travel to the West Coast if he wants to become a skilled airplane mechanic and to advance in this kind of work in some of the large airplane factories of the West. Mary may have to go to New York to work in the exclusive dress shops if she wants to use the skill and artistic ability she has developed.

After one has considered his native equipment and the environmental factors and related them to his likes and dislikes he should be able to take the step upward and move from a general field to one in which he might work to a more specific life-work. Upon this realistic cross-examination one must choose a life-work he likes, one which permits creativity and expression, one which gives new zest to life even though life is spent in carrying out the work.

THAT SATISFIES

By Charles P. Cressman, S.T.M.

Learn All You Can About The Job

Be realistic about your life-work. Get all the data that is possible. Consider the potentialities. Some jobs will not have a promising future. Other jobs will be new and provide all kinds of opportunities to the young person adequately trained and ready to accept the responsibility.

The boy at school can go to his counselor and get valuable information about occupations. Many schools have courses in occupations. Information can be had in libraries about jobs and the personal equipment and education required. The United States Government will provide information about occupations. Pastors, business men, employers, and community leaders can provide other valuable information. Good books can be obtained which describe various occupations and the nature of training required.

A person must evaluate his own potentialities as well as the potentialities of the work he or she intends to enter. He must recognize and accept his physical and mental limitations, but he must also recognize and accept the limitations of the occupation. There are advantages and disadvantages to every job. See them clearly.

In addition to information and realistic data, one of the most valuable aids to the choice of a life-work that

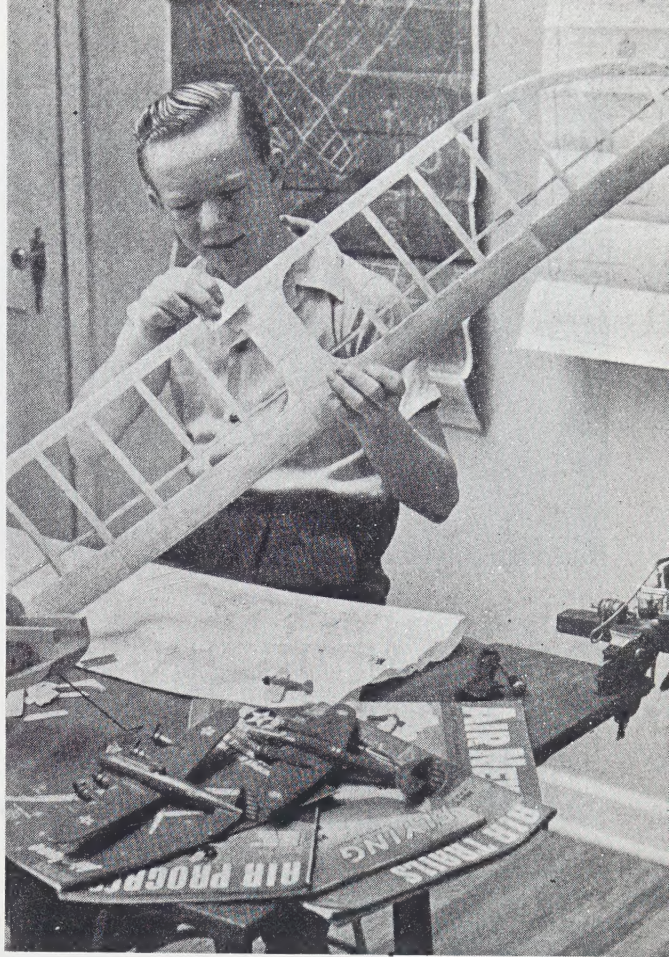


PHOTO BY LAMBERT

satisfies is to gain some experience in that life-work. A fellow can get a part-time or summer job, or one can work in an institution which symbolizes the profession he wishes to enter. A girl planning to be a stenographer, or a boy planning to enter business, can get valuable experience in an office or in a store either through part-time work after school or a summer job. If a girl plans to be a nurse or to enter the medical profession, today's need of volunteer nurses will be a valuable opportunity. A boy's service in the Medical Corps of the nation's armed forces will provide excellent experience. It is possible today to gain practical experience and advance information about any field of work one may propose to make his life-work. This is another place where one's parents and elders can be of assistance, for they often have had both experience and information. Youth of today will be wise in going to the older generation in gathering information about a job. See clearly all of the issues involved and feel free to choose for yourself on the basis of the data on hand.

Be Willing To Enter Another Field If Necessary

Today's jobs are highly specialized. If one is to succeed, he must be highly trained for a specific task. In many instances the general training one takes before entering a specific job will equip him or her to take another job that is related somewhat to his present job. There are "families of vocations" and one may later enter a related occupation and find more satisfaction than in a job chosen earlier. He or she should be willing to enter another field if necessary, or at least to choose a job in a related field. Just as people make wrong choices in many of the important decisions in life and are called upon to make another choice later, so one must be willing to change to

(Continued on Page 32)



Registrants at Retreat

SOMETHING NEW IN LIFE SERVICE

Dr. H. D. Hoover

Western Theological Seminary in Fremont, Nebraska, ventured an entirely new and unique type of program this semester. Realizing the serious need for more full-time workers for the Church in the postwar era, Western Seminary sponsored a Retreat for young men of high school age, to present to them the challenge of Life Service and the ministry.

The theme for this three-day session was "Christ's Way Always" with devotional services based on Psalm 27:11, "Teach me Thy way, O Lord". Daily themes were, "Seeking", "Finding", "Following". The conference was planned by Rev. Thomas Allport, now serving St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bellingham, Washington.

The outcome of the conference was most gratifying. Total registration for the three-day Retreat was forty-two. Of these forty-two, thirty-four were students registered in high school and will soon be faced with the necessity of making a decision about their plans following high school graduation.

Pastors from thirteen congregations, representing four states, sent young men. Those participating were: Epiphany, Denver, Colorado; First Lutheran, Topeka, Kansas; Unity, Des Moines, Iowa; St. Paul's, Davenport, Iowa; English Lutheran, Manly, Iowa; First Lutheran, Cedar Rapids, Iowa;

Trinity, Sioux City, Iowa; St. John's, Leigh, Nebraska; Salem, Dakota City, Nebraska; St. Luke's, Omaha, Nebraska; Our Redeemer, Omaha, Nebraska; Grace, Lincoln, Nebraska; First Lutheran, South Sioux City, Nebraska.

The results of the Retreat may best be expressed through a few of the re-

actions of the young men during the Retreat:

"I never knew the ministry could offer young men such opportunities as have been pointed out to me."

"I was discouraged for the ministry because of the expense involved, but you have answered that question for me, and many other questions too."

"Before I came to the Retreat I was undecided about the ministry, but I know for sure it is going to be the full-time ministry now."

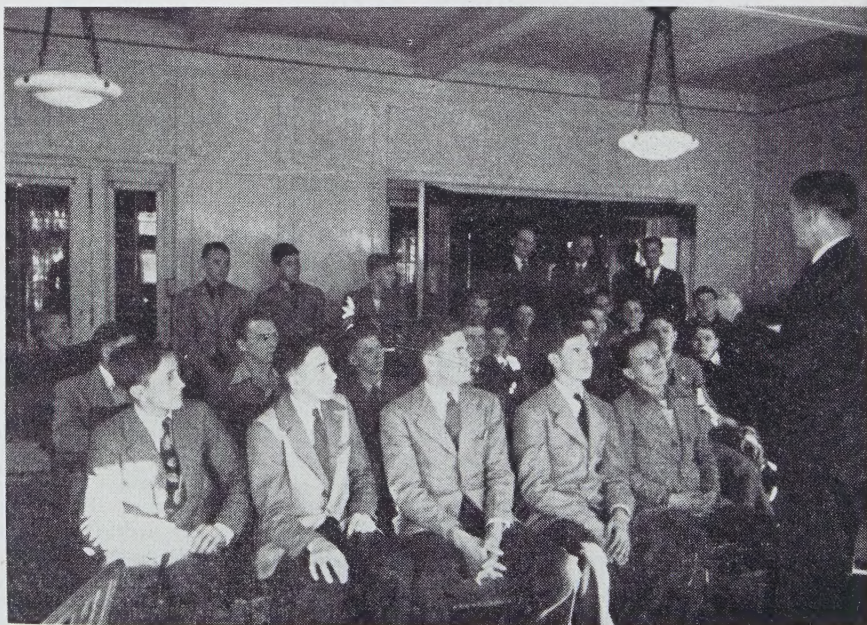
"Foreign missions appeal to me. I'm going to think seriously about becoming a missionary."

One of the pastors attending expressed his reaction in these words:

"Personally, I am grateful for the opportunity of having been able to attend the Retreat and am confident its influence in the lives of the boys who came from all corners of the midwest will be permanent. Perhaps the yield of the sowing done will not be evident immediately, but in the years to come I am sure the Church as a whole will profit by an increased harvest in earnestness and zeal on the part of these boys in the great work of the church, whether as pastors or other full-time Christian servants, or as more devoted Christian laymen."

Because of the splendid response to this first attempt at a Life Service Retreat, it is the intention of Western Seminary to continue this type of program each year at Thanksgiving. It is felt that God will surely bless the endeavor toward a fuller and more effective ministry.

Retreat Discussion Group



I DARE YOU!

By DR. H. D. HOOVER

THE world is weary and waits for good order, peace and light. The One who can bring peace on earth and good-will has come. But He awaits your life to bring Him to the throne. Long ago He said to His disciples: "Go bring yonder colt, I have need of him". That colt bore Him into the city amidst rejoicing. The race calls for that which only Christ can bring through youth—through you.

Martha called Mary, "The Teacher is here, and calleth for thee." In this twilight and darkness of conflict and confusion the Master is calling for Marys who will sit at His feet and learn His Word. Humanity needs Marys to minister as deaconesses, parish workers, institutional and social workers, teachers, editors, and executives.

"O woman hearts, that keep the days of old
In living memory, can you stand back
When Christ calls? Shall the heavenly Master lack
The serving love which is your life's fine gold?"

The call of God is clear and definite. The Kingdom of Heaven needs men to carry the light of the truth into the darkened corners of the earth. The Kingdom needs young men to lead others in the search for the Christian way of life and work. Your choice must be as clear and definite. "Choose you this day whom you will serve."

Jesus loved a lad of promise like you. The lad was not entirely satisfied with his life. Jesus said give your best for others as I am giving my life for the poor and unfortunate of humanity, and you will be content. The happy life is the life that is helpfully related to others. Find that joy.

Look into your inner self. There is a vision there, a dream of something great to do for God and humanity. You will not permit the soldier and sailor, the pilot and marine to outdo you in heroism and courage. The cause of Christianity is calling for great courage, hearts of courageous vision, persons ready to give their all. God is calling for you.

Look up and catch a glimpse of the strength and song that is yours in following in the footsteps of the victorious Nazarene who lived a courageous, constructive, creative life of joy and peace. Dare you follow in His steps? The door leading to a superior life of beneficence for all humanity is open and you are privileged to enter and become one of the great persons of the age. I dare you.

Lutheran Youth Rally In The Argentine

By PASTOR LUIS GARCIA, San Miguel, Argentina, South America

"WHAT Youth Expects of the Church and What the Church Expects of Youth" was the theme used at the Lutheran Youth Rally held on September 10th in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, San Miguel, Argentina. It was an afternoon in which nature provided a fitting setting for the youthful religious fervor which was manifested. Faces were radiant as a large number arrived at the church. There they had a joyous meeting with two personages of importance. One was the Invisible One, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the Lord and Leader of Christian youth; the other, The Rev. M. Edwin Thomas, D.D., special representative of the Home Church. Dr. Thomas became for us the personal embodiment of the Mother Church, The United Lutheran Church in America, which has planted among us the knowledge of the true Christ as taught by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Ours, we believe, is a great field in a growing republic, the Republic of Argentina.

It is not our purpose to comment extensively on these two rendezvous, except to report concerning the impressions received as to the promise of the Church as embodied in her young people. This Church, which is quite young, despite its twenty-five years, has not had great success in its search for candidates for the Ministry, but it does have many young people who earnestly serve their Master. In their brief talks on that afternoon of the

Rally the youthful representatives of each congregation spoke bravely and sensibly about the problems of the Christian life as it concerns them, and their discussions showed the degree to which they had received and assimilated their religious instruction. We believe, therefore, that our Church gives promise of great vitality in a matter of fundamental importance, and that the first twenty-five years have not been fruitless, but that the fruit is immature. The future will see our hopes realized, not only in a greater number of young people won to evangelical Christianity, but also in those who will consecrate themselves to the work of the Ministry, an imperative need in this extensive field.

One of the results of our anniversary experience is that we see a greater and ever greater need of impressing on our youth the importance of the vocation of the Christian pastor. To this end it is expected that in 1945 there will be laid the foundations of a Bible School which will be the beginning of our own seminary at a later time. For the realization of these plans we ask for the prayers of the Mother Church, that we may soon be able to organize the Bible School or Theological Seminary in which those of our youth who wish may receive and practice an instruction eminently spiritual. Finally, pray for our Luther Leagues, which are the immediate source of our ministerial candidates.

Youth Rally at San Miguel, Argentina



The Chains Shall Be Broken



IT is almost impossible for us to imagine our world without man's written word. Books are so numerous, we seldom, if ever, think of the fact that it is only within the past four hundred years that man has been blessed with their abundant use. We cannot conceive the scope of ignorance which would be ours today without the use of books. The word "book", ("boc") is from the old Teutonic "boks", that is "the beeches", tablets made of beech-bark on which were cut or painted the straight-lined letters of the early Teutons. The Latin is "liber" from which comes our word "library".

Man's first attempt at written communication was the drawing of pictures on stone. Even today this method is used among primitive people. The Egyptians progressed to idea-pictures as a better method of conveying thought. These were known as hieroglyphs, or sacred writing on stone and papyrus. The Chinese, who still use them, also produced picture or sign words. It was the Seirites who simplified the hieroglyphs into letter signs and the Phoenicians developed these into the alphabet, to which the Greeks added the necessary vowels.

It is not easy to decide at just what period ancient writings may be called "books". Perhaps the oldest known story was written in Egypt 2500 B. C. and is called "The Shipwrecked Sailor". Long compositions like the "Book of the Dead" and "Papyrus Prisse", written about 2000 B. C., might be called books.

The ancients used almost any smooth surface for their writings. Metals, woods, wax, ivory, leaves, bark and skins were all used. Owing to the cheap and easy preparation of papyrus, its thinness and lightness, yet hard smooth, glossy surface, this material was used for many ages. However, it was very sensitive to dampness and dissolved and crumbled away in a few generations; thus many valuable records were lost to future posterity. Egypt with its dry climate, preserved many of these, but all others were lost.

Because it was too liable to dog's-ear and tear, a method of rolling the papyrus sheets on wooden cylinders was developed, called in Latin, a "volumen" (roller) our "volume". We call these cylinders "scrolls".

Parchment, fine-dressed skin, supplanted papyrus. Writings were rubbed off of these and the same parchment used six or seven times. These writings were laboriously copied by hand, which made the book of great value to its owners, and therefore many were chained to the walls of cathedrals and monasteries, especially during the middle ages. (It was too lowly an occupation for a rich man to read and write; he therefore paid monks and clerks to do this work for him.)

The greatest revolution in history occurred with the invention of printing. Man had discovered a method of printing from wood-cuts, but Gutenberg is given the credit in most records for having printed the first book with movable type. This first book was the Bible.

We seldom pause to think of the great labor and materials involved in the making of a book. To us it is

merely interesting reading or we discard it as worthless. "The pen is mightier than the sword", is an oft-used quotation. This is never more true than when it is applied to The Mightiest of all Books, our Bible. The program of the Luther League calls for the promotion of daily Bible reading and the encouragement in the study of worthwhile books. By your gift of \$1 Contributing or Service Memberships, or your \$5 or more Gift, Loyalty, Memorial or Honor Memberships to the Sustaining Membership Fund, you help extend this most necessary program to the youth of our great Church. During this serious Lenten-tide, we cannot do too much to discourage the reading of the trashy literature which abounds so profusely today; and encourage the breaking of the chains of indifference and carelessness which keep many youth from reading the Bible and Christian literature. Send in your gift at once to The Luther League of America, 405 Muhlenberg Building, Philadelphia 7, Penna.

MILDRED GARTELMANN, Chairman
Sustaining Membership Fund Committee

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Let's Read!

Suggestions by
EDITH RICHARDSON,
Member, Education Committee

"Papa Was a Preacher" by Alyene Porter. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. \$1.75



Irresistibly human and gay from beginning to end, this is a personal and intimate picture of life in an American parsonage of not so many years ago. The author is one of the eight children in the pastor's family—six boys and two girls. Her indignation aroused over the sympathy always being extended her for being a "preacher's daughter", she resolved to write a book which would dispel the idea that life in a parsonage is a joyless existence. She succeeded! It overflows with the rollicking, merry pranks of the eight youngsters who lived to bless and complicate the problems of a pastor. Says the author, "We are long since grown and scattered. But the color of those years is more vivid than all the splashes of adult years". The book glows with the love that unites God-loving and God-fearing parents. The book is delightfully illustrated and catches the spirit of the story. "Papa Was a Preacher" will give you several hours of enjoyable reading and an insight into life in the parsonage.

"Burma Surgeon" by Gordon S. Seagrave, M.D. W. W. Norton & Co. \$3.00

This is the story of an American Doctor who, long before World War II threatened, was carrying on his own war against malaria, dysentery, plague and other diseases in Burma. He began his medical mission in the North Shan States with a waste-basketful of broken down surgical instruments that he salvaged from Johns Hopkins. Under his direction huts in the wilderness became modern hospitals; primitive conditions became civilized, and simple native girls were trained to be excellent nurses. When the war came, Dr. Seagrave was commissioned a major in the Medical Corps to care for the wounded. During the Japanese bombings he performed emergency operations amid the flames of burning towns. You will thrill at the courage, faith and love of the native Burmese nurses who affectionately called Dr. Seagrave "daddy". These nurses evoked wonder and admiration among all who came to know them. The book ends with a day by day account of General Stillwell's trek through the jungles to India after Dr. Seagrave and his unit joins the retreat. This is not primarily a war book. It is a doctor's book about his work and those who helped him in it.

What To Do In LENT

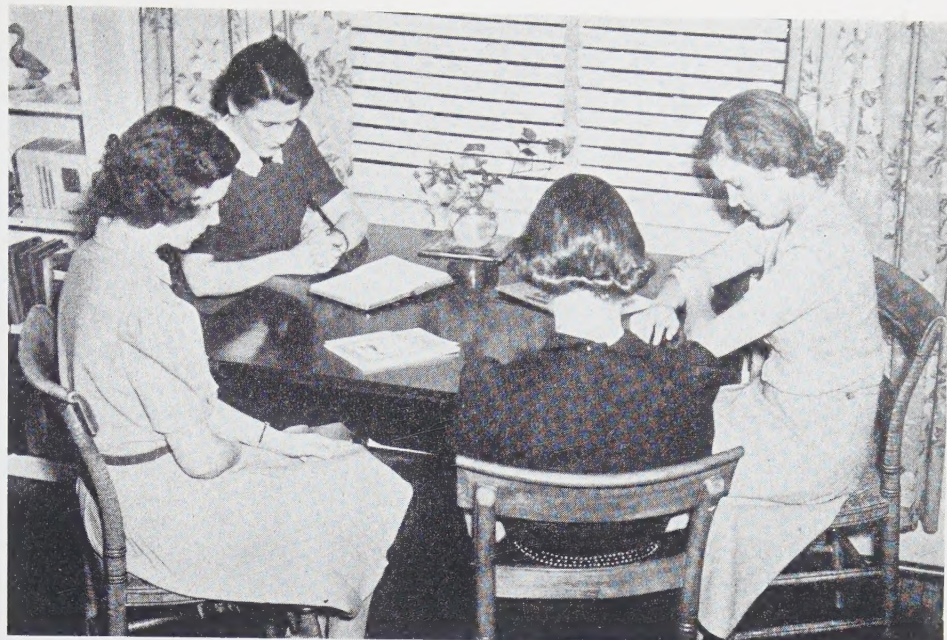


PHOTO BY ELLIS O. HINSEY

By C. P. HARRY, D.D., Chairman
Education Committee,
Luther League of America

THIS month marks the concluding four weeks of Lent, for Easter comes on April 1. Lent goes away back into Christian history. It commemorates our Lord's forty days of fasting in the wilderness **when He was tempted and won His victory.** The Gospel for the first Sunday in Lent emphasizes that accent in this season. There Youth may learn how to meet the temptations of the devil. Every Luther Leaguer should read that lesson with care and learn from it how to endure temptation and to win victories. Note that the temptations came at the end of the period of fasting and consecration. We often think that if we keep seasons like Lent, we shall be set free from temptation. No, it is when we reach spiritual heights that the temptations become most trying. Only the holy know what temptation really is! But only those who are relying on the Word of God come through with victory.

Lent for most of us means **a time of more prayer.** That is good. Nothing is needed among us more than to have more people spend more time with God, until life becomes **all His and every act** is holy as a prayer and **every moment** consecrated by communion with God. Frank Laubach, the great linguist who has taught more people how to read than any other man, in his "Letters of a Modern Mystic", says he determined to try to think of God every moment. Just so soon as his attention is released from the task in hand undertaken for Christ's sake, he has trained his mind to center again on God. It was hard for a while, but by persistence he has won. That is a great way to live. That is living in Christ, working for Him, thinking of Him, witnessing to Him, communing with Him. Let's begin now to train first ourselves and then all other Leaguers in this Practice of the Presence of God. It is not difficult. It simply requires persistence. Anyone can begin any time and receive more and more of the blessing that comes from such living with God. We advise all to get and read this Lent, the little book referred to, "Letters of a Modern Mystic" by Frank Laubach.

When the late Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, was living, he was a powerful influence in the English Church. He still is, for his vision of what must be is clear and compelling. He said that the worship of the Church must be simplified. There must be more small cottage prayer-meetings in which, with complete informality

and sincerity, men and women—a dozen or so together—pour out their hearts to God in each other's company. In a recent address, Dr. Gould Wickey, of the Board of Education of our Church, said nearly the same thing. Men on both sides of the ocean have the same vision, call for the same thing. Dr. Wickey said we must look forward to more simplified worship. We must develop Christian cells if we would make our faith dynamic in the post-war world. Luther League is just the place to develop Christian cells.

A cell is the smallest living part of an organism. Our bodies are made up of thousands of them. When they are strong and healthy, they work together. We feel fine. Life has meaning and zest. When any of them is unhealthy, not functioning properly with the other cells, we feel bad. Life looks blue; we are no good. Cells, in the sense Dr. Wickey meant, are small "organisms" of the Church. A few earnest boys and girls gathering frequently for prayer make such a cell. Just plain, informal, frank, unrestrained outpouring of our souls to God in each other's company, for each other, for the Church and the world—that is the work of such a cell.

Jesus started the cell-plan. He chose the twelve "to be with Him, to go out to preach, and to heal, and to cast out devils". They became the nucleus of the Church. They went and started other groups of cells. Any congregation, when it is healthy, is made up of many smaller groups of its members who meet much more frequently than the church services, and much more informally. Sensing their oneness with Christ, they go out to heal and to overcome the devil. We ought to start such cells in every Luther League, and do it now in Lent as a beginning. Lent comes in the Spring because it is seed-planting time. Plant the seeds now. Start the cells to functioning now so that in the warm summer and the golden autumn they may bear fruit to God.

How? If God has given you a concern, or touched your heart about this, then do not quench the impulse to do it! Ask one or two others to come to your home. Ask them if they would like to share in prayers informally, meeting for a half-hour or so regularly at such time and such intervals as God may lead you to see it best. Begin right then. Each one pray—simply, in your own words; or in words which truly express your thought. It is well

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FROM D-DAY TO V-DAY

A Sailor's Proposal for V-DAY



Post-Intelligence Photo

Service men and women in the tiny chapel of the Lutheran Service Center in Seattle, Washington, join in prayer for the success and safety of the Allies invading Western Europe. Officiating at the altar for the service, typical of invasion devotionals held on D-Day is The Rev. Paul V. Randolph, Service Pastor, and WAC Pfc. Eleanor Carlson and Elmer Wuestenberg, aviation metalsmith, second class.

★ ★ ★

Not only on D-Day, but **every** day through silent meditation and church services, praying civilians and service men and women alike seek God's mercy and protection for the forces now in combat:

O LORD GOD, we pray for Thy blessing on the officers and men of our Army, Navy, and Air Forces as they defend us and our nation from our foes. May their courage and sacrifice be followed by a just and lasting peace: In Jesus' Name. Amen.

★ ★ ★

LIFE SERVICE ON D-DAY

CHARLES HAULMAN, Jr.

HELEN came in from school and asked her grandmother, "Is there going to be any services at the church tonight?" It was the day of the invasion, and Helen had heard the other students talking about the services that were to be held in their churches that night. "No, I haven't heard of any", replied Mrs. Hildebrand. "Well, there's going to be", said Helen, and turned and went out the door.

Roseland Mission was a new church that was started last summer in Roseland, a new suburb which had been built up in Northeastern Cincinnati due to the war industries.

The people of Roseland Mission worshipped in a store-room which they have made into a beautiful place of worship. It has all the appointments, including a reed organ.

Don DeVore, age fifteen, is the custodian of Roseland Mission and does a very good job. Don seems to know just how to arrange things in the little church. The win-

Eight

A few months ago some friends and I in the South Pacific were hearing the news of the preparations for V-Day back home. While we, too, on the basis of current news from the European front, expected V-Day soon, the attitude of the folks that victory in Europe would practically be the end of Japan as well, gripped us a bit.

At that time I really expected a lot of the boys from Europe to be home for Christmas, and I confidently expected to be in the South Pacific. By a twist of fortune I happened to be sent back to the States instead. I even managed to get home for Christmas—for a full day at home. I am truly most thankful to God for that opportunity.

But what I am getting around to is a thought that came to me on the ship coming back. I was thinking of the boys in Europe who were not coming home yet, while I was. Then I got to thinking, "What if America had planned for a different type of V-Day!" Yes, most churches were going to be open for a service of perhaps an hour in length. Perhaps many would be open all day for those who felt the impulse to come in and pray. But what competition the churches could expect! The bars, saloons, places of amusement would be going full blast. Yes, they might even be closed in the forenoon, the time when the churches would be expected to have their services, but how many more hours there are in the day to indulge in rowdism and reveling.

Might there not have been a difference had the nation planned for a 24-hour holiday, in truth a holy-day, with ample provision for prayer and thanksgiving for all its citizens? That Day should be devoted to earnest prayer for God's guidance in the peace program, to thanksgiving for His help in winning the victory, and in solemn commemoration of those honored dead who gave their lives for us.

(Continued on Page 32)

dows are regular store windows. Don, who has a knack for such things, painted a picture of Christ in one of the windows with dyes, and in another a cross and Lutheran symbols.

There hadn't been any arrangements made for D-Day because the pastor, Rev. Berger, was away on his honeymoon and Don Enter, who had helped in getting Roseland started wouldn't be there until Sunday. So Helen and Don, without any prompting from anyone, went to the church. Don placed a sign on the door which read, "This church will be open for prayer tonight".

Helen, who could play the piano a little, started playing hymns on the reed organ just as night was falling. Don lit the candles on the altar, then he got on his bicycle and rode all around the community telling the people that the church was open for prayer.

There were not so many who came to the services, but those who did come received good from it. Don and Helen are both members of the Young People's Class. They must have a very good Sunday School teacher as this was indeed a Christian Service.

In Memoriam



*God called our loved
ones, but we lose
not wholly,
What He has given;
They live on earth
in thought and deed,
as truly
As in His Heaven*
--Whittier

Memorialized in Sustaining Membership Fund

KATHERINE M. ADAMS
Memorialized by
Luther League of New Jersey

Pfc. JAMES MICHAEL NUZUM
Memorialized by
St. Paul's Luther League, Grafton, West Virginia

What a Memorial Membership Means

- ★ A page in the **Golden Book of Memories**, kept on display at Headquarters is inscribed to the memory of the person Memorialized.
- ★ A beautiful **Memorial Booklet** is sent to the loved ones of the person memorialized.
- ★ The work of our Church's youth organization is helped by the gift of \$5 or more for which a **Memorial Membership** is granted.
- ★ Let no Luther Leaguer who makes the supreme sacrifice in World War II go unmemorialized by us, their fellow Leaguers.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP REPORT, FEB., 1945

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - - Total 5

Rodney A. Solberg
Mrs. Bertha M. Solberg
Mrs. Howard L. Logan
Howard L. Logan
Paul Albert Logan

CANADA

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

CONNECTICUT

FLORIDA

GEORGIA-ALABAMA - - - - Total 2

Rev. Joseph W. Frease,
By Mildred Gartelmann
Rev. Turner A. Graves,
By Ascension Intermediate-Senior Luther
League, Savannah

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

IOWA

KANSAS

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

MARYLAND - - - - - Total 1

Miss Gladys Broeker

MICHIGAN - - - - - Total 3

Mrs. Edward Wiggert
Edward Wiggert
Connie Wiggert

MIDWEST

MINNESOTA

MISSISSIPPI

MONTANA

NEBRASKA - - - - - Total 2

Emmanuel Luther League, Tekamah
Alvin DeBuhr, Auburn

NEW JERSEY - - - - - Total 20

St. Peter's Luther League, Plainfield
Alvin H. Schaediger
Harry C. Meier
Rev. John Kle
Ruth Mondon

Wilma Schumann

Emma Schaefer

Lillian Eastman

Gertrude Golzlin

Ida Otto

Rev. Paul C. White

Walter R. Morten, Jr.

Helen Kruse

Ida Jorgensen

Ethel Johnson

Laura L. Vroom

Arthur Bonnet

Rev. Harold Haas

Arthur Parseghian

Katherine M. Adams,

Memorialized by

Luther League of New Jersey

NEW YORK - - - - - Total 3

Mrs. Allen M. Laster

Miss Irene Schaefer

Donald F. Bauz

NORTH CAROLINA

OHIO

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PENNSYLVANIA:

Central Pennsylvania - - - - - Total 13

Susan Kurzenknabe

John George Kurzenknabe, Sr.

Mrs. John George Kurzenknabe

John George Kurzenknabe, Jr.

Doris Jean Kurzenknabe

Charles E. Kurzenknabe

Grace Luther League, Camden, N. J.

William H. Patrick, Jr.

Mr. Charles Peberdy, Jr.

Mrs. Mary E. Bitner

Elizabeth Patrick

Rebecca Patrick

Federated Luther League of New Jersey

Ministerium - - - - - Total 31

Dorothy Savacool

Joseph Hutt

Donald Godshall

John Bosenhofer

Rev. Atwood T. Smith

Rev. A. S. Wohlson

Pfc. Gus Wurzer

James T. Wurzer, F 1/C

Harry Stetser, S 2/C

Alfred B. Reinhard, S 2/C

Cpl. Henry C. Thielman

Pfc. John Lysinger

Pfc. Frank H. Loeb

Eleanor Streepy

Mrs. Arthur H. Hafner

Louise Cook

Allen Fox

Pauline Frankenfield

Mrs. Robert Silfies

Bernice Meyers

Richard Groeger

Luther Leaguers in Service,

By Holy Trinity Luther League, Bethlehem

Luther Leaguers in Service,

By Salem Luther League, Bethlehem

Federated Luther League of New Jersey

Master John Kline

Anna Schlegel

Mamie Weidner

Rhea Ann Nagle

Christine Heller

Betty Ann Turkheimer

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Turkheimer

Pittsburgh - - - - - Total 1

Luther Leaguers in Service,

By St. John's Luther League, Johnsonburg

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

SOUTH CAROLINA - - - - - Total 2

Mrs. J. Obert Kempson

Rev. J. Obert Kempson

TEXAS

VIRGINIA - - - - - Total 1

Rev. John W. Cobb

WEST VIRGINIA - - - - - Total 1

Pfc. James Michael Nuzum,

Memorialized by

St. Paul's Luther League, Grafton

WISCONSIN



IN THE AMERICAN

By DR. ZENAN M. CORBE

the provinces of Canada. Serving these fields are some 550 pastors, deaconesses and teachers and other workers. There are more than 138,000 confirmed members in these aided congregations and almost 75,000 pupils in the Sunday Schools. These congregations have spent almost \$15,000,000 in order to acquire church property, and they have contributed \$2,500,000 for local expenses during the past year and during the same period have given \$370,000 for benevolence, so that home mission work evidently pays even from the standpoint of dollars and cents.

The work of this Board is done chiefly in English, which is the language of the countries in which we are chiefly laboring, but there are a goodly number of congregations being assisted that use other languages. In addition to English, some of our missionaries use in their services, German, Finnish, Icelandic, Italian, Spanish, Jewish (Yiddish), Magyar, Slovak, Estonian, Siebenbuerger Saxon, American Indian (Cree), Lettish, Norwegian, Swedish, Japanese. It is interesting to note when presenting this subject that over the years this Board has assisted in the erection of a church building at the rate of one every ten days, if they could be distributed in this manner. However, when the war is over and priorities are lifted, there will be a great building program which will make up for the time lost in these years of conflict. There are at present more than one hundred and sixteen congregations waiting for the lifting of government restriction on building. The present unsurpassed payments on loans, amounting to over \$300,000 a year, is bringing available resources to a point where we can more adequately meet the demands of our growing mission congregations.

The emergency in housing constrained the Board to assist with loans to secure parsonages. The Women's

Missionary Society and self-supporting congregations with funds to loan are co-operating with the Board in this matter. The architectural advice now furnished by the Division of Church Extension will save our congregations thousands of dollars. Our present Church Extension fund is slightly over three million dollars, the largest in our history, but not an amount with which the Church should be satisfied since another denomination has ten times that amount for the New York area alone. Legacies are the chief source of increasing church building funds.

The Board carries on work in the West Indies in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Two stations are maintained in Alaska, and one among the American Indians on the Rocky Boy Reservation. Several missions among negroes and a hostel for Japanese are other phases of the Board's activities. In addition to the work done by our Board of American Missions in conjunction with the other Lutheran bodies through the Commission on American Missions of the National Lutheran Council, many of our mission pastors are being assisted in serving the new communities that have suddenly sprung up in their neighborhood.



Konnarock Medical Center

THE two World Wars, together with such marvelous inventions as radio communication with every part of the world, have caused many people to think that the time is past when it is necessary for America to continue as the melting pot of the nations.

We have not heard of any of the great smelting furnaces being closed because of the improved method of manufacture, so no matter what the development of society it remains just as true that as a melting pot of nations America will continue in its sphere. Thus American or Home Missions will continue the work of welding together the nations that come to our shores that they may form a Christian America.

The Board of American Missions was established by the United Lutheran Church that the work of missions and church extension might be carried on in the western hemisphere, that the labors of the missionaries might have supervision and the entire cause be promoted and the work co-ordinated. It is also the province of this Board to stimulate a missionary spirit in the constituent synods.

The extent of the task assigned this Board is revealed by the fact that almost 600 pastoral charges in the United Lutheran Church are being aided by this Board. These congregations are scattered throughout the United States and its possessions and

MELTING POT

Executive Secretary,
Board of American Missions
United Lutheran Church in America

Other activities under this Board are the Home for Sick and Neglected Babies under a Deaconess in St. Croix, registered nurses in Puerto Rico, where other trained workers also conduct daily kindergartens in several congregations. The Southern Mountain Work assigned this Board by a former convention has at last developed into a successful evangelistic agency. The Women's Missionary Society of the U. L. C. A. gave large sums over the years for this work. They now, with

the Church, rejoice over the work that is being accomplished at the School for Girls as well as at the Boys' School. Connected with this work there is also a Medical Center, the building and equipment for which was given by The Luther League of America. That work has now become so successful under Dr. A. Meyer that the U. S. Government has recognized

it. The program for rural work assigned this Board has been held up by the shortage of pastors. The work will be inaugurated as soon as pastors are available. The same lack also delayed the inauguration of the trailer chapel ministry to the increasing thousands who are ever on the move. The Training School for Pastors, so helpful in the past, will be revived with the ending of the rationing of automobiles and gasoline.

The Board's greatest need continues to be consecrated men, adequately prepared for the great task of gathering the unchurched into the fold. At a period when thousands of lives are being sacrificed to preserve liberty, it is certainly time for the Church to urge that more lives be consecrated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Only when Christianity prevails will the world have peace.

★ ★ ★

FROM OCEAN UNTO OCEAN

*From ocean unto ocean
Our land shall own Thee Lord.
And, filled with true devotion,
Obey Thy sov'reign word,
Our prairies and our mountains,
Forest and fertile field,
Our rivers, lakes, and fountains,
To Thee shall tribute yield.*

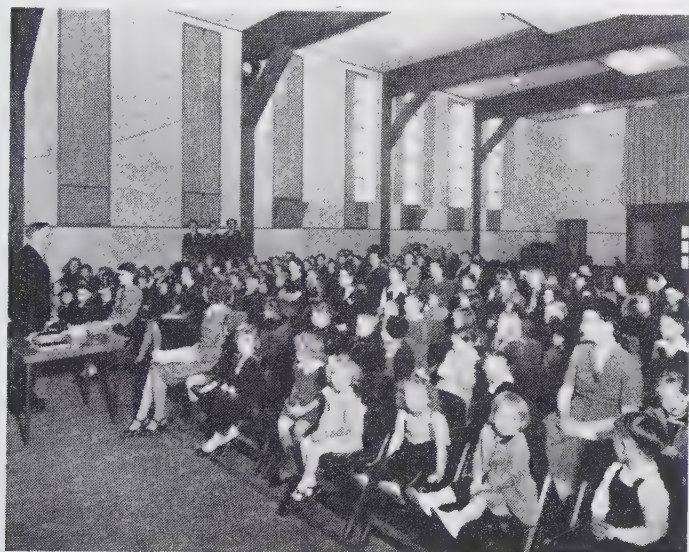
*O Christ, for Thine own glory,
And for our country's weal,
We humbly plead before Thee,
Thyself in us reveal;
And may we know, Lord Jesus,
The touch of Thy dear hand;
And healed of our diseases,
The tempter's pow'r withstand.*

*Our Saviour King, defend us,
And guide where we should go;
Forth, with Thy message send us,
Thy love and light to show;
Till, fired with true devotion
Enkindled by Thy word,
From ocean unto ocean
Our land shall own Thee Lord.*

—Robert Murray



Evening Scene, Japanese Hostel, Minneapolis, Minnesota



A successful
Sunday School
in the
Community Hall
of a
Defense Housing
Area



McLaughlin Heights, Washington, a transitory city of 5000 small but comfortable homes for war workers

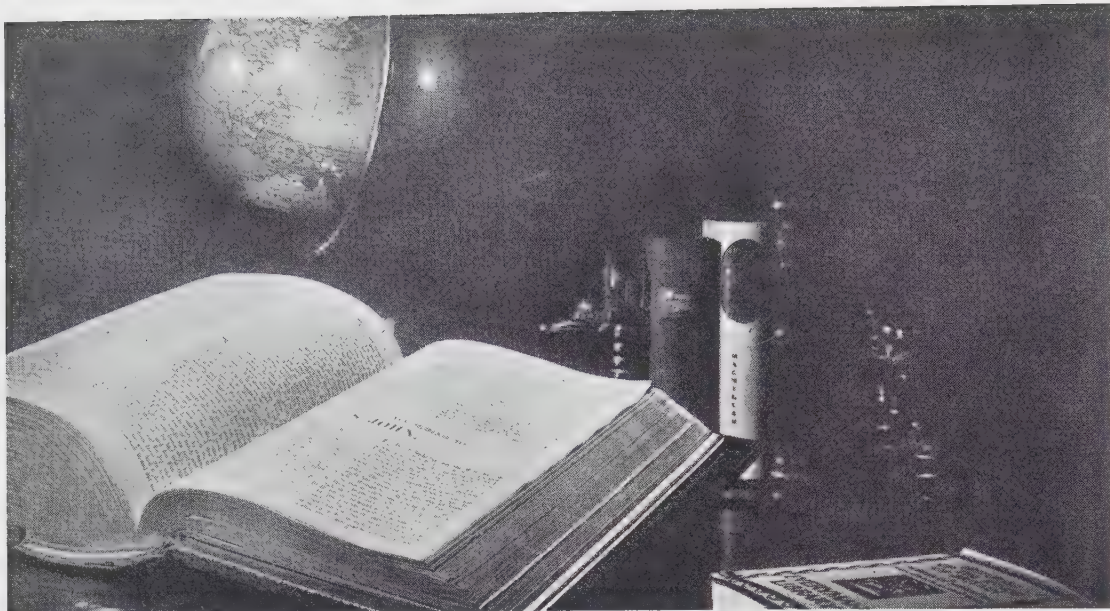


PHOTO BY ELLIS O. HINSEY

A Message to P. T. L. Chairman

Dear Luther Leaguer:

A great responsibility has been placed in your hands. It is a glorious opportunity. To challenge youth to keep God's Word within reach at all times, to read daily the greatest of all books, and to share the Word with others, is truly a glorious privilege that comes only to one who is a Christian. This is your task and goal as Pocket Testament League Chairman in your group.

Below you find a "Weekly Bible Thought" for each week in the month. We hope this will prove a useful PTL tool for you in your work. With the Bible in your hand you can stand before your local League at each meeting and use the Bible Thought for the week. This is one way of keeping the challenge constantly in the minds of your group. It is a means of soliciting new PTL members.

Yours for increased Daily Bible Reading and new PTL members.

MRS. TED H. (FRANCES MILLER) CLARK
P. T. L. Chairman, Luther League of America

WEEKLY BIBLE THOUGHTS

Sunday, April 1st

"I am sorry for men who do not read the Bible every day. I wonder why they deprive themselves of the strength and the pleasure."

—WOODROW WILSON

O loyal PTL member is receiving this strength and pleasure.

★ ★ ★

Sunday, April 8th

"All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated through this Book; but for this Book we could not know right from wrong. All good things for man are contained in it."

—ABE LINCOLN

If you agree with Lincoln, should you not therefore: carry the Bible with you, read it daily, and pass it on to others?

★ ★ ★

Sunday, April 15th

"All that I am I owe to Jesus Christ, revealed to me in His divine Book."

—DAVID LIVINGSTONE

You need Christ's guidance in daily living, do you not? Carrying out your PTL pledge assures that to you and others.

★ ★ ★

Sunday, April 22nd

"I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a College course is more valuable than a College course without the Bible."

—WM. LYON PHELPS

Do you put first things first? If not, then become a loyal PTL member.

★ ★ ★

Sunday, April 29th

"That Book, (the Bible) sir, is the rock on which our republic rests."

—ANDREW JACKSON to his Physician

Millions of daily Bible readers gives assurance of a strong nation.

Young People's Topics For March and April

Editor's Note: We have been doing our utmost to get your topics to you in time, but our best efforts hitherto have proven insufficient to get them to you as early as you should have them. In order to get ahead, we are printing in this issue the topics for MARCH and APRIL. In that way we know that you will have the April topics on time. Henceforth, the issue of "The Luther League Review" which is current in a given month will carry the topics for the succeeding month. For example, the April issue will carry the May topics. We have hesitated to do this for a number of reasons, but we now find ourselves forced to do so. We hope you will approve the new and necessary plan. Let us hear from you about it.

TOPIC STUDY FOR MARCH 4 « « «

III Lent

THE MEANING OF SALVATION

John 3:1-17

By Rev. C. P. Harry, D.D., Norristown, Pa.

• Preparation

A picture of Nicodemus coming to Jesus would help to fix the topic in mind. Or a picture of the Prodigal Son. Or a broken jug or other vase, which has been made whole again.

It is effective to have the Bible Readings read by various members of the League. They should be assigned in advance so that those who are to read may practice reading and not stumble and spoil the effect.

The League could work up the story of the Prodigal Son into a playlet and present it with telling effect.

So the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus may be recited by two members of the League with dramatic effect.

• Program

Hymn: "O Thou Who Hearest"

Leader:

Salvation! O salvation!

The joyful sound proclaim

Till each remotest nation

Has learned Messiah's Name.

In the midst of the season of Lent our hearts turn naturally to think of salvation.

What does salvation mean? What is it to be saved? I have asked (name of a Leaguer) to lead us in prayer.

Prayer by a member of the League

Hymn: "My Faith Looks Up"

The Scripture Read (unless it is planned to present it in dialogue)

The Topic and Discussion

Hymn: "Who Trusts in God"

Prayer:

Leader: Hear us, O God

Response: When we call on Thee.

L—Turn to us, O God

R—And save us.

L—Show us Thy salvation

R—And make us whole in Thy grace.

L—Deliver us, O Lord,

R—From all our sin.

L—Establish us, O Lord,

R—In Thy truth.

L—And grant us

R—Thy salvation.

Lord's Prayer

Bless us the Lord; Thanks be to God.

• The Topic

The Meaning of Salvation

Salvation is preservation from destruction, danger or calamity; deliver-

ance. In religion it means deliverance from the power and penalty of sin.

The Danger

As life goes on few of us think of danger. We are so surrounded with the many means of security that danger seems far away. When we must face it as many have done in the stark peril of battle and conflict, we are afraid. We ought to be. Fear is the right reaction to danger. Most of us fear chiefly what may happen to our bodies. We do not want to be hurt. Much of the effort of our lives is devoted to insuring that we shall have little, if any, discomfort. Indeed, we might almost say that our civilization is built up as a safety device to guard us from danger and suffering. Safety and comfort are our aim. They must be in a world of danger and suffering. Such a world ours is.

The keenest suffering however, is not bodily. The suffering which cuts deepest and which we seem to fear least is the suffering arising from sin. There are no devices of civilization which will make us safe from a bad conscience. Zofia Kossak shows that again and again in her deserved popular novel, "Blessed Are The Meek". It is a story of St. Francis of Assisi and his times, well told. But the point of it made again and again is that only in moral integrity, only in getting rid of our dependence on things is there happiness and salvation. A lovely woman with every comfort wealth and influence can buy, pursues her lustful way to—suicide. Her lover—a King with every honor and power in his grasp—loses out, fails in his highest ambition and ends miserably. In St. Francis' band is one who tries to play double,

the agony of his soul as he tries to choose between slavery and truth is a picture of what goes on in many a heart every day. But St. Francis, without money, despised and made mock of as a fool, has peace and joy and is called on to help those who mock and to show them the way out. The danger from which we need salvation is spiritual. It is our sin.

Sin

It is not popular to talk about sin, except among some who like to tell how bad they are to win a false approbation from their more timid comrades in evil. But sin lies like a great blight across every life—all of life. It is sin we should fear, not suffering. If we suffer righteously, we are happy. Jesus said you are happy or blessed when men persecute you for His sake. People do not usually fear the really fearful things—greed, illusion, self-assertion—evils of the spirit. The conditions of life make little difference. We are not concerned or should not be concerned about money or comforts. We would then be always tranquil. But sin upsets all this. Sin is being concerned about oneself, putting oneself forward, insisting on one's own will, flying in the face of God. **That** is what is to be feared for that is indeed perilous—and prevalent.

Salvation

When Nicodemus came to Jesus and proposed his question about truth, Jesus cut him rather short. You cannot even see the Kingdom unless you are completely made over. You are facing the wrong way. How can you see the Light when you turn your back to it? Turn around—repent. Get a new slant. The crowd is all wrong. The world has gone astray. Even the church of Nicodemus' day (perhaps parts of it in ours) is no help, for it, too, is self-seeking, proud, flying in the face of God's Word. This was surprising to Nicodemus. It is stunning to be told that today. We cannot be-

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TOPIC STUDY FOR MARCH 11 « « «

IV Lent

DELIVERANCE THROUGH CHRIST

Romans 7:14-25

By Rev. C. P. Harry, D.D., Norristown, Pa.

● Preparation

For the leader's table—a crucifix, a picture of the crucifixion, or of Christ and the Fishermen, or of Christ and the Rich Young Man or of Christ at Lazarus' Tomb.

Ask some of the members of the League or of the congregation to be ready to tell of experiences of deliverance through Christ which they have had.

In place of the topic below someone might read a chapter from Dorothy C. Wilson's "The Brother", especially one near the end; or the one from Z. Kossak's "Blessed Are The Meek" in which the converted troubadour talks with the countess; or a chapter from H. Begbie's "Twice Born Men". Any of these might also be dramatized by members of the League.

● Program

Hymns: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"
"O Jesus Crucified"

Leader: In every one of us and in our society there is conflict. We know what should be and we do something else. There ought to be peace and we fight wars; there ought to be no want and we have poverty because we will not share freely; there ought to be good-will and love, but we hate and try to out-do one another. What is the way out?

Prayer: O God, we do the things we ought not to do and what we ought to do we leave undone. We are lost, gone astray, seeking vainly for health and peace. Help us at this hour to realize anew our deliverance in Christ. Replace our sin with His righteousness, and fill our lives with grace in Him. Amen.

Hymn: "Art Thou Weary?"

Scripture: Romans 7:14-25

The Topic and Discussion

Hymn: "In the Hour of Trial"

Prayers by Members of the League

Lord's Prayer

Bless we the Lord: Thanks be to God

● The Topic

Deliverance Through Christ

We all have the same trouble more or less, just as St. Paul had in the Scripture for this topic. The good we would do, we fail to do and the evil we would avoid we so often do. My father used to tell of one of the men he knew who was unable to avoid getting drunk. My father said to him one time, "What fun is there in it? Why do you do it? Why don't you go right past the saloon?" His answer was, "I try and try but when I go down that street and the smell of the liquor comes to me, I just can't help going in and then I'm done".

There was once a minister in a town we knew real well and we knew him well, too. He was a man of the finest ideals, the most beautiful thoughts which he expressed clearly and persuasively, but he could not get along with people. He was touchy. And even when he was not really angered he angered people by saying things in a

sharp way. Someone said, "Why does he do it?" The answer was, "It is the big fight of his life. He goes home and repents bitterly. He determines not to do it and comes downstairs and before he knows it, it happens again". But we do not have to look to drunks or ministers to know of this. Not one of us but has such a fight on his hands every day.

They Do Not Work Out

We all have good intentions, but they do not work out. Sometimes it is our own fault. We are careless, thoughtless. Anybody could tell us beforehand that we would fail because we do not go at it in the right way. I knew a boy whose father said, with reason, too, "If there are two ways of doing a thing, that boy would do it the wrong way". He never could succeed. Sometimes it is others' fault. We are not the only imperfect ones. The best cannot always succeed. Success is not always possible. Much depends on others' response. Even our Lord did not always succeed. Many were offended at Him. They crucified Him as a dangerous and wicked Man, upsetting people's faith and disturbing the peace and blaspheming God! The world we live in is disordered, as well as our own souls. The best driver cannot make a car with defective steering gear go right. Our ideals are high, but our accomplishments are not so hot. When then? Is there a way out?

Christ Does

St. Paul found the answer in Christ. So has many another. He is the Saviour of the world. The disorder in our lives and in the world can be cleared up in Him. My father's drunken friend might have found power to walk by the saloon and conquer his evil habit, had he taken Christ for his Guide and relied on His grace. The minister must have known that. He was supposed to have given himself to Christ. But there was a flaw somewhere. Jesus does not fail. Perhaps, though, in the ministry he had not really yielded to Christ. Certainly Christ would have given him grace. St. Augustine dallied with his sin for a long time. Then he gave up to Christ and Christ made him into the great leader of saved souls that he was. Many another has come up from the depths of degradation to the beauty of a saintly life through the power and

grace of Christ. And many another who never has been a great sinner, will testify that but for Christ, his life would have been other than it is. He gives His Spirit. From Him there streams into our lives healing power, holy strength. He takes the last and worst and makes him into a humble saint, a witness to Christ's saving power.

He will do that for anyone here. Is one of you struggling with a bad habit? Let Christ remove it and fill you with His goodness. Are you worried and depressed? Let Christ fill your life with peace and enthusiasm. Are you concerned about the future of America and of the Church? Work with Christ to save both and to make them the channels of His power in the whole world. Remember, Jesus saves.

● Questions

Why do so many fail to be good, when they want to?

What are the most prevalent failures in character?

Why is this so much a youth struggle?

Have several tell of how Christ delivered them.

Is there someone in your congregation or community who is known to have been saved through Christ?

Does the Church make it clear that Christ does this for people?

How many has your League helped to find deliverance in Christ?

Does Christ deliver from other than moral troubles?

How is Christ at work saving the world?

Does Christ save from other troubles than moral ones? For example, sickness—or other handicap?

Do the gospels tell more of moral conversions or of sick being healed?

Why does not the Church cure the sick by Christ's power?

● Quotes and Comments

Christianity must be unwaveringly and authoritatively declared by its representatives to be a miracle-working religion, a religion able to cleanse the heart and convert the soul of even the most degraded human being.

—Begbie

The proofs of Christianity lie in the cleansed hearts and higher selves of that vast multitude which Christ has sought and saved.

—Begbie

Every single individual maintains a struggle of some kind with the forces of good and evil.

The lost can be saved.

Conversion is the only means by which a radically bad person can be changed into a radically good person.

I believe that Jesus Christ hath redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, secured and delivered me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil.—Catechism

In every community there are many people who can testify that through Jesus Christ they have overcome their sins and weakness and found the joy of life in God.

● Bible Readings

Acts 4:8-12. In this instance the power of Christ had healed a lame man, raising him up and enabling him to walk. That is what we all are spiritually without Christ. Has He given you the power to walk with God and to praise His Name?

I Peter 1:18-23. Purified . . . born again . . . redeemed . . . all in Christ. This was not theory, but experience. Is it yours, too?

John 8:31, 32. Here is the secret continuing in Christ's word. Then we know the truth

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A PART OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA WAR SERVICE PROGRAM

VOLUME I

MARCH, 1945

NUMBER 11

★ Executive Committee Inaugurates Golden Anniversary Appeal for 1945

★ A Day at The Lutheran Service Center In Ayer, Massachusetts

By Doris F. Pedersen

The knotty pine walls seem to reflect a sense of well-being. A symphony record is playing on the radio. The cookie jars are filled. Not quite two o'clock yet but suddenly the door opens and two weary girls walk in.

"Can you help us? We've walked up and down every street in town trying to find a place to live . . . even if it were just one room where we could cook our meals. We saw one place but it was too expensive. Maybe we could find a job . . ."

So we start phoning, but the answers are almost always the same: "Sorry. We're all filled up." "Sorry. No vacancies." "No, I don't have any apartments available." Then we start to check on jobs. Most of the companies aren't interested in wives of soldiers: they're too apt to leave after only a week or two—perhaps even a month. Finally we find that the woolen mill is taking on new employees, and the girls can begin work next Monday! They're still tired when they leave, but they're thrilled to be able to go and pay a deposit on that apartment, knowing that they'll have a job and won't have to depend on a private's pay of \$50 a month.

While we've been busy phoning, a few more army wives have come in, glad that they have a place to spend the long hours of the day. A couple.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)



JOHN H. LAUMAN

★ Goal For \$25,000.00 For Luther League Advance

The Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Luther League of America was held in Philadelphia, January 21-23, 1945. Throughout their deliberations the members of the Committee were conscious of the fact that this is a great year in Luther League history.

This year not only lends itself to great and challenging tasks on behalf of all young people of our Church but it also marks fifty years of service as an organization. In October 1895, the Luther League of America was formed at a convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A Golden Anniversary of service in the Master's Name looks to the future as well as recounting the past. We of the present are mindful of many blessings which are ours through the labors of other Leaguers in past years. Therefore, the call of this Appeal is for Luther Leaguers to give a Thank-Of-fering commensurate to our wealth in benefits. This fund of \$25,000 is to be used in the future to make our appeal strong and effective to the oncoming leaders in our Church.

Mr. John H. Lauman, Vice-President of the Luther League of America, has been appointed Chairman of this Appeal. Mr. Lauman is so thoroughly challenged by the possibilities this fund will afford that he is willing to give a month out of his busy business program to lead this project to a successful conclusion.

★ The Christian's Time-Table

By Gould Wickey, Washington, D. C.

In Moments of Silence, the Christian gains
Knowledge, awareness and fellowship blest;
Then, confidence and power supreme obtains
Through study of the Word and rest relaxed.

In Days of Suffering, the Christian learns
Patience, courage and kindness, too;
Then, accepting victoriously discerns,
Through lasting law, some reap what others sow.

In Years of Sacrifice, the Christian sees
Character developed, loneliness cured;
Then, gifts of joy and peace and beauty receives,
Through living the cross, fruitfulness assured.

In a Life of Service, the Christian shares
Time, talent, treasure and all things most dear;
Then, working for men as for Christ, always cares,
Through molding souls, to bring heaven more near.

A Day at a Lutheran Service Center

★ A Day In The Lutheran Service Center In Ayer, Massachusetts

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1)

of them are playing ping-pong, one of them is working a puzzle, and another is at the sewing machine.

Over at the work bench, a soldier is making a leather purse for his wife—lounging in the soft chairs around the radio are others, glad for a few hours of relaxation. Bits of conversation float up front: "You can't imagine what it was like in New Guinea . . . no one will ever really know . . . eighteen stitches . . . medical discharge . . . bombing mission . . . rest of them never returned . . . lucky to be here—no it wasn't luck—He helped me . . . going to Canada to enlist . . ."

The girl at the puzzle leaves it and comes over to the desk. She is a very attractive girl with dark hair and questioning eyes. "Tell me, what do you have to do to be a missionary?" We ask her what prompts her question and little by little the story comes out: She was baptized and confirmed in a Lutheran Church in a small Illinois town, went to the City to make her living . . . finally came to New York . . . worked in Chinatown . . . three months ago married Wong . . . he was inducted last week and will be here at Fort Devens for a few more days . . . there have been some hard experiences, people not wanting to rent them rooms . . . well, he's in the army now, but after the war, what? . . . He wants to go back to China to live with his people—she wants to go back with him—to do missionary work.

Five o'clock: The girls hurriedly leave to go back to their rooms and wait for their husbands. Perhaps they'll get passes tonight and perhaps not. There's nothing to do but wait and see. They smile their thanks as they leave and promise to be back later—all depending. There is no certainty in this kind of life.

About six-thirty the boys really start coming in. The ping-pong tables are especially popular. A couple of boys have made records that they plan to send home, and they're having a lot of fun playing them on the phonograph.

Half a dozen boys are experts in the leather section: purses, billfolds, a brief case, a tripod cover. Mr. Wehner goes from one to the other offering suggestions, helping to sew in a zipper, working out a new pattern.

Tonight there are several groups of families in different corners of the center, wives or mothers and fathers who have come to Ayer to have a few minutes with their newly-inducted sons before they are shipped out to other camps. Perhaps this will be their last meeting for months. It's good to have a place to sit and talk.

Nine-thirty—time for coffee and cocoa and cookies. The boys at the leather bench, the groups at the ping-pong tables, the couples working the puzzles, the lads at the piano, the families—all gather around the coffee counter. There is a common fellowship; the farmer, the toolmaker, the accountant, the truck driver, the radio operator—they're all soldiers now.

Most of them want to catch the 10:10 bus back to camp, but some have passes and they linger on. A couple of the boys stop and ask where they can go to church on Sunday, and we look in the directory and find the closest church of their synod. They'll be back for the Sunday evening service at the Center chapel.

We're just about ready to turn out the lights when a very excited girl comes in. "Can you find me a room just for tonight? I don't want to go all the way back to Boston and then come out here again tomorrow. And he thinks he'll have one more day before he's shipped out." So we start on the phone again. It's late and we don't like to wake people up, but we must have a room. We go right down the list of homes with no success and are just about ready to give up when we find one small room in a house at the other end of town. So we put the girl in a cab amid her profuse thanks.

We close the door and the day ends. Tomorrow—a new day. Will it be a repetition of today? Never! Profoundly full, but profoundly different. Some of the familiar faces will be gone; there will be new friends, new problems. Is it worth while? Only those who have come to a strange town with no place to go and no friend to help know what it means to see that sign, "Lutheran Service Center". And they say "Yes".



At the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Lutheran chaplains are represented equally in each group. Members of the staff (left to right): Chaplains Captain Harold A. John L. Nelson, Augustana, Sedro-Blaine, WA, ULCA, Perkasie, Pa. The two-week assistants to problems peculiar to the

★ An Ap

You who wear the Kakhi, the Blue and the Olive Green, are giving all you have to make for a rising generation a safer, saner society in which they may live. You are doing in this hard and warring way what other forefathers did for you in other days. Revolutionary and Civil War citizens did it as you are asked to do. Those who lived between and after those wars did it in and through hard toil and painstaking ways of upholding high ideals and right principles.

While you are busy in your work the Luther Leaguers at home are being called upon during this great 50th Anniversary Year to create a fund of \$25,000 to be used in the immediate future to make the youth program of our Church more far-reaching and effective.

The Church has always provided for us the opportunity to reach out beyond our own borders. We have a feeling that wherever Luther Leaguers go there is a feeling of goodwill among men. We know that you have been creating and cultivating this fine feeling of friendship with all those whom you meet. You are making a marvelous contribution as Christian ambassadors as well as soldiers of a great nation. We are confident that we can count on you to be Christian in every situation you are called upon to face.

The need for Christian leaders will be no less in the post-war days just because you have fought and won a war against the adversaries of the Christian Way of Life. We are hopeful that in



Chaplains' Transition Conference Course, staff and in the student body with three (row, l. to r.) Chaplains Major August Kraasli, NLCA, Director of the Course; students in the back row are (from the left) Captain J. H. Koch, Jr., NLCA, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Captain J. H. Koch, Jr., NLCA, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; and Captain Wilmer F. Furman, NLCA, Mechanicsburg, Pa. The front row consists of chaplains and their enlisted men.

al To You

this Anniversary Year members of our Luther League will provide the means whereby the Luther League can serve all congregations in a manner which will meet the need of the youth who are rising to this new and challenging leadership.

We have a feeling that the Chaplain was right when he said recently, "We are come to the time when we are going to have to stand up and be counted either on the side of Jesus Christ or with the group which is against Him". We know that you have come to realize the power as well as the love and hope that is found in Christ, our Redeemer.

A young soldier recently wrote his mother from his foxhole in France, "I got the Service Leaguer. I sure enjoyed it. I do not know what I would do without the Church. I have not given anything to the Church for some time so I am sending a money order. I have had many opportunities to encourage others to prayer."

No doubt you can witness to the depth of the feeling so clearly expressed by this young man. You have sent many such contributions to the Church as he did in that letter. There is reason to believe that this Anniversary Appeal of the Luther League will come to you and that the response that you give will be genuine.

We pray for you to enjoy the strength which God gives every believing heart as you serve Him while you serve your country.

Sunday at the Front

A Chaplain's Story of Service in the Midst of Cannon Fire

By Chaplain JOHN H. KOCH, Jr.

Sunday is here again and, as usual, the memories take us back to the evenings at home after a busy day. We are indeed fortunate to have a roof over our heads again and to be able to worship inside. God has been good to us and has provided spiritual nourishment in these tragic times. "The Lutheran" and many other papers coming through the National Lutheran Council and the Army and Navy Commission of the Missouri Synod have supplied us with interesting details of church life at home. Your work in the States is painted vividly, and we who are overseas read searchingly. I, too, have had experiences and would like to convey a mood which I had shortly after a Sunday service.

Just one Sunday ago a sergeant standing outside the pillbox turned around to exchange greetings. He asked what we were passing out in the way of literature to read and, of course, he was given a little booklet of "Prayers in Time of Peril" and also "A Message for the Day". This Sunday as the jeep wound its way through the muddy road under the beautiful rosy red and golden yellow leaves of a French forest, memories of this same sergeant came to mind. He would not be seen among those men who would come to worship inside the little pillbox situated deep in a beautiful old woods. A day after having seen him a shell came through the side of the box and hit him, killing him almost instantly.

It was in the midst of these circumstances that the men found their way through a forest resounding to the thud of mortars and artillery shells and torn by the explosions of many bursts among the trees. Men, with their thoughts turned to deep and sincere reverence, gradually walked one by one to keep their covenants and vows with God. There were shells going out and shells coming back in answer to the guns of the enemy, but still that steady step toward that sanctuary—today was Sunday, and there was something in their hearts and souls that made them want to come to commune and worship with their Maker.

From An Earlier War

There was a possibility that some of their parents years ago had fought against this same type of enemy and had probably been in the same woods.

They knew that these pillboxes had been built by enemy hands and had held in their bosom the guns of death which spewed out their wrath years ago. But still those men tramped, slipping and sliding through the sloppy mud and drenching rain. What met their eyes was no great and magnificent superstructure fashioned by the hands of men in honor and respect for their God. It was only a little concrete structure which now housed the kitchen of one of the units occupying that certain section of the woods. There were no guns now, with the exception of the arms of the men living within.

The men came in through the narrow slits in the concrete and gradually found their way in and among the kitchen utensils and supplies. They were not mindful now of the man who just six days ago had met his death here in this little concrete box. They were not conscious of the men trying to get the supper for those who needed physical nourishment as well as spiritual. They were not conscious of the large loaves of fresh bread sitting there on a little board and the cans of meat by their side. Their thoughts were upon the significance of the Cross and what all connected therewith meant for them. They knew why they had come. They were there in answer to one of the great commandments, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy".

Within Their Hearts

There was not much light inside the dark and damp little church other than that cast by a little lantern and the two lighted candles on the altar. They did not need too much light to pray in their hearts the prayer that their parents had taught them years ago. You could see them pray with tired but fearless lips the Lord's Prayer. They paid no notice to the stoves and the smells which emitted from the cooking food. They paid no notice to the shells exploding near-by. God reigned in their thoughts. Today was the Sabbath, a day of rest and peace.

With these words of benediction, "The Lord bless thee and keep thee, the Lord make His Face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee, the Lord lift up His Countenance upon thee and give thee peace," the men went back one by one, out into the world, to their various duties.



My Daily Goal

By Lee Aaron Combaw

I like to think when evening comes
and I have knelt to pray,
That I have done some bit of good
to mark this passing day.

I like to think that I have said,
some word of hope or cheer,
That I have eased somebody's pain,
or stilled somebody's fear.

That I have given some wee gift,
a smile or just a flower,
To make this world a gayer place
for even just an hour.

But if I feel that I have lived
in a small or selfish way,
I ask God at evening time to
"Forgive this wasted day".

★ *Ten Commandments For 20th Century Youth* ★

Harry J. Carman, Dean,
Columbia University

1. Know yourself; substitute positive for negative attitudes.
2. Be informed; avoid ignorance and superstition.
3. Cultivate a sense of responsibility for your thoughts, words and actions; remember that freedom and privilege always entail responsibility.
4. Distinguish between right and wrong in terms of human welfare and always champion the right.
5. Always speak the truth; be honest with yourself and with others; acquire a reputation for integrity and trustworthiness; avoid having a negative and gloomy conscience.
6. Avoid the habit of being a parasite, mentally and physically; do not try to get something for nothing.
7. Always be courageous and fearless. Don't be hyper-sensitive, jealous and touchy; learn to co-operate effectively.
8. Learn to think clearly, to interpret wisely, and to act with maturity.
9. Avoid fear and anxiety; have faith in yourself and in other human beings; be tolerant, sympathetic and understanding.
10. Use all your talents to good purposes; don't be bounded on the north, south, east and west by yourself; don't be egocentric, cultivate largeness of vision and the habit of serving others.

Horace Mann said, "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." The person who observes the above commandments and who labors in the interest of ridding America of those forces of reaction and darkness will, in my opinion, have won such a victory and thereby have ennobled himself.

*Commencement Address at Wagner College,
May 30, 1944.

★ ★ ★

The Rev. Dr. Gould Wickey, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of The United Lutheran Church in America, Washington, D. C., has been appointed a member of the Advisory Committee to consult with the Defense Plant Corporation in working out a policy of procedure for the transfer to colleges offering aircraft instruction, surplus airplanes, airplane engines, and airplane parts. A considerable volume of material now accumulated is no longer of value for war purposes but has definite instructional value if placed in the proper hands.

TOPIC STUDY FOR MARCH 18 « « «

V Lent

WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE REPENTANCE?

Luke 3:7-14

By Rev. William H. Harburger, New Brighton, Pa.

• Preparation

On the leader's table a picture of the returned prodigal; or of the lost sheep being rescued.

Ask three or four members to come with accounts of repentance from life or from novels, e.g., the troubadour in Kossak's "Blessed Are The Meek", or one of the chapters of Begbie's "Twice Born Men"; or an incident from Russell's "For Sinners Only"; or better still a story from the local rescue mission if your own congregation is not leading people to clear-cut repentance.

Ask three or four others to be ready to tell of their own conversion or repentance.

• Program

Leader: Almighty God we turn to Thee seeking to find the new Way of Life and we pray that Thou wouldst lead us to see what true repentance is in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: "I Lay My Sins"

Prayer: O Lord God, Merciful Father, lover of men: Turn us to Thee so that we may be truly Thine. Keep us strong so that we may not sin against Thee. When we weaken and yield to temptation, then, O Lord, may we, like the prodigal son, come to our senses, confess our sins and be received back to Thee in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Hymn: "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

The Topic and Discussion (Do not fail to use the members prepared to give accounts of repentance.)

Hymn: "Just As I Am Without One Plea"

Psalm 130 (read responsively)

Lord's Prayer

Bless we the Lord: Thanks be to God

• The Topic

What Is Acceptable Repentance? The Need of Repentance

You cannot look in any direction without seeing the evidences of sin. Hatred and inhumanity are evident to all eyes. For several years an all-out war has been raging with all the fierceness and brutality which modern weapons make possible. Following in the wake of this war are suffering, disease, famine, death, rape, banditry and looting. Unfortunately these evils are by no means confined to other nations. In our own nation we behold greed and dishonesty in high and low places. The corruption that is to be found in America is a scandal. The spirit of materialism which we behold in the lives of so many people and which bids them to "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die", is a disgrace to any people. Time and again in the last few years we have been reminded of the mounting immorality among our young people; of the lust and impurity which threatens the sanctity of our homes; of the growth of divorce and drunkenness and other sins which are undermining our nation's moral fiber.

We Christians simply cannot carelessly pass over these visible tragedies of our time by attributing them to the shock of war. They are the visible indications of a malady that is gnawing away beneath the surface. That malady is sin for which there is but one remedy—repentance.

Self-Examination Necessary.

We must, however, do more than indulge in generalities if true repentance is to result. We must probe deeply into our own guilt; we must thoroughly examine our inner self. God's Word must lay bare the **secret** sins that have been covered over by an outward righteousness.

And when we expose ourselves to the painful searchings of God's Word, which "is sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart", shall we say that we have no need of repentance? Shall we assume that we are like the Pharisee and thank God that we are not as sinful as other men are? Have we always brought forth fruits worthy of repentance? Has there been no irregularity of attendance at divine worship, no reluctance to abide by God's clearly revealed will and truth? Are we certain that our formal liturgy, with its beauty and helpfulness when properly understood, has not lulled us to sleep? Are we certain that we have not come to the place where we recite our prayers mechanically? Are we positive that materialism has not blighted our spiritual lives? Have we permitted our preoccupation with interests in a world at war to interfere with our service in the ranks of our King? Have we so conformed to the ways of the people about us that we hate our enemies in direct opposition to our Saviour's command to love our enemies? Do we seek to justify ourselves when we refuse to forgive others? Have we learned to control a nasty temper?

Faith Likewise Necessary

We must be like the publican in the Temple, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner". His was a true repentance and was acceptable. Recognition of our sin, plus remorse over it, is not enough, is not acceptable repentance. There must also be faith. Judas recog-

nized his sin of betrayal, he felt remorse over it, but he had no faith in God and so he placed a noose about his neck. Peter also recognized his sin of denial and in remorse he wept bitterly; but his remorse brought him to the feet of the Saviour. The difference in these two men was faith. First there must be a recognition of the existence of sin; secondly, there must be self-examination and in the third place, there must be faith. These will result in a—

Changed Life

True repentance means a change of heart, a renewal of the image of God within us. A soul filled with sin and selfishness has no room for God. Repentance is not a mere reformation—the putting away of former evil habits—but a complete transformation, the creation of a new spiritual being. Repentance takes men whose backs are turned to God and brings them face to face with God. In true repentance there must also be a daily improvement in one's life, striving ever toward that perfection which Christ desires for us.

Repentance Should Not Be Delayed

If we are to repent, we dare not delay. The Kingdom of God is close at hand. He who seeks to plant it "within you" is standing in your very midst. If you want to be sure of your place in that kingdom, hasten to repent and be admitted to it. Do not delay. Tomorrow may be too late. "Now is the accepted time." Governor Felix waited for a "convenient season" to repent. That time never came for him. The need for repentance today is real and urgent. Hesitation may spell eternal ruin. Yes there is need of an instant decision.

Search Your Ways

There is a need for us to search our ways to see what our spiritual state is at this moment. Are we bringing forth fruit worthy of repentance? When you search your ways, seeking to discover fruits worthy of repentance, do you discover any fruit? Do your ways lead you to Church on Sunday or to pleasure trips? Are you pleasing or displeasing to God during the week? Do your ways bring you nearer to God or take you away from Him? Are you closer to God today than you were yesterday? Are you living a life of true repentance? Are you aware that you must "by daily contrition and repentance" drown the old man and cause him to "die with all sins and evil lusts"?

Have you stood still or advanced in Christianity? Are you a better Christian than you were a year ago? Have

(Continued on Page 26)

TOPIC STUDY FOR MARCH 25 « « «

Palm Sunday

IS CHRISTIANITY A TRUE RELIGION?

I John 5:19, 20

By Rev. C. P. Harry, D.D., Norristown, Pa.

● Preparation

On the leader's table a cross or crucifix which is the commonly recognized symbol of Christianity. Any of the pictures suggested for the other topics of this month would be helpful too.

Have someone ready to give several dictionary definitions of religion.

Ask three or four to bring clippings of what seemed to them to illustrate true religion in the daily news.

● Program

Hymn: "O For a Faith"

Leader: Our topic at this meeting is "Is Christianity a True Religion?" That is important for us to know. Many would say, "Of course". Some might say all religions are superstitions. Let us pray for God's help at this hour.

Prayer: O God, we pray that you will guide us in our thinking so that we may come to understand the reason why Christianity is a true religion. Amen.

Hymn: "My Soul Be On Thy Guard"

Scripture: I John 5:19, 20

The Topic and Discussion. (Instead of using the treatment offered here, this would be an excellent topic to debate. Advance preparation, of course, would be required. There should be at least two debaters on each side of the question, "Resolved, Christianity is a True Religion".)

Hymn: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast"

Prayer: We pray, O God, that the faith of the Church may never waver and that every member of the same may be more and more firmly established in Truth, so that our holy Faith may sustain and strengthen all and open the way for many to come to life and salvation in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "Lord, Thy Word Abideth"

Bless we the Lord: Thanks be to God

● The Topic

Is Christianity a True Religion?

Our answer is yes. Christianity is a true religion. Many would say it is the only true religion. We will not debate that point now. Whether or not it is the only true religion, it is the only one in which we have a chance to fully share. It is the religion of America. Indeed, it is the religion that America was founded to develop. The backbone of American colonial life was made up of men and women who came to these shores in order to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. Every one of them was a Christian and it was for the free practice of Christianity that America was settled and established. America presupposes Christianity as its guiding faith. No other has any considerable following. No other influences American life. Is Christianity a true religion?

It Came from God

Jesus claimed He came from God and that the truths He taught were what God had sent Him to say. "The Father hath sent Me", Jesus repeats many times. Unless Jesus was completely mistaken or misunderstood, He certainly came from God and taught the things of God. His Word is as God's Word. Indeed, John, at the opening of his gospel calls Jesus the Word made flesh.

Now a true religion must come from God. Other religions which have swayed mankind have that background. An experience of God sanctified a man or a place or a message and made it the focus of religious life. It must be so. Religion to be true, must come from God. Christianity has come from God.

It Leads To God

That is another mark of true religion. All religions seek to lead the worshipper or believer to God. That is the purpose of religion—to unite God and man. All the rituals, elaborate or simple, grotesque or beautiful; all the sacrifices are for the great purpose of bringing God and man together. The purpose of all true religion is atonement.

Christianity brings God and man together. First of all, in Jesus. Christianity sees God in man in Jesus. He is Emmanuel—God with us. All the doctrines of the Virgin Birth and of the Sinless Christ are attempts to make more clear that God and man are one in Him. Even the Creeds were built up largely to preserve that vital truth of Christianity. Christ is God Incarnate. God and man are one, so that Jesus is called sometimes the Son of God and sometimes the Son of Man. When Nathaniel came to Him, he said, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God". Jesus did not say no. Yet He usually called Himself the Son of Man.

Christianity brings God and men together. It is not only a fact of history that the God-man Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again and is alive forever more, but it is also a fact of experience. In Christianity men have experienced union with God. There can be no doubt of that. Tens of millions of men and women living today under every conceivable difference of background and other experiences will

agree that they have found God in Christ and that through Him they have been united with God. Our other topics this month have all been leading to that fact. The Moral struggle we each have, the deliverance through Christ when we repent—these are not empty words, day-dreams. They are the root experiences of life in these tens of millions. They will all agree on that with one voice. And they will be supported by the testimony from the tens of billions who have lived in God through Christ down through the ages since Peter said to Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life". It is a matter of common experience that atonement, union with God, forgiveness and new life, come through Christianity. It is a true religion. It enables us to have true religious experience—union with God.

It Gives Better Life

The other aim of religion, indeed in some ways its fundamental aim, is to make life better. The sacrifices were offered to appease the gods, so that being reconciled, rain would come or victory in war, or children and other blessings pour into life. That was religion, seeking God for His goodness. Christianity does that, all that and more on a higher plane. The fullness of life which Jesus said He came to give is not merely a full bread-basket, economic or national security or personal well-being. "I came," He says, "that they might have life and have it more abundantly." There is an exalted quality in Christian life which transforms living. Cleanliness, order, courage, tenderness, honesty, purity, hope, the forward look to better things God has prepared. All these come into life and make it better through Christianity. The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Yes, but all the other things—food and raiment and safety and assurance for the day and for eternity—are added, too. Christianity gives fullness of life. It is a true religion.

And its promise is that the life lived in God here will be lived with Him forever. "This is the promise that He hath promised us, even everlasting life" (I John 2:25). That is true religion. It is the hope which steadies in trial and temptation. It is the treasure we do not want to miss. It is the best God can do for us—to promise that we shall always live with Him.

True Religion

Christianity is a true religion because it comes from God, unites us with God, makes our lives better here and promises we shall live forever in Heaven. Because it is a true religion,

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TOPIC STUDY FOR APRIL 1 » » »

Easter

THE CERTAINTY OF THE RESURRECTION

John 21

● Preparation

One of the many pictures showing the resurrection of our Lord or of one of His appearances after His resurrection should be placed as the center of interest in the meeting room. Spring flowers on the table will add to the charm of the room.

Members of the League should be assigned parts for a dramatic or character-reading Scripture Lesson for the topic. There should be a Narrator (girl) who will take the narrative; a man for Simon Peter's parts; a man to read the words of Jesus; another for John, the "disciple whom Jesus loved". The reading may be more effective if the readers are concealed behind a screen or curtain where a light glows. It could also be acted in costume very tellingly.

● Program

Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen"

Reading:

Leader: We have seen the Lord.

Response: He is risen from the dead.

L—Two of the women saw Him this morning.

R—Mary Magdalene also saw Him.

L—Peter and John were at the tomb.

R—It was empty. They believe He rose.

L—Two going to Emmaus talked with Him.

R—Yes. He stopped with them and blessed their supper.

L—They have come back to the city.

R—Jesus came into the room.

L—Though the doors are shut.

R—He said, "Peace be unto you."

L—And ate fish and honey-comb.

R—Then the disciples believed.

L—But Thomas was not there.

R—Next week Thomas was with them.

L—Jesus came again.

R—Jesus showed the wounds in His hands and His side.

L—Thomas believed and said:

All—My Lord and My God.

Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen"

Scripture Reading: John 21 (See Preparation)

The Topic and Discussion

Hymn: "The Day of Resurrection"

Prayers: (Use the Collects for Easter; or make brief prayers for the Leaguers to read; encourage short prayers.) O God, Whose Son our Lord rose from the dead assuring us of Thy mercy: Help us to live in the light of eternity and to rise to Thy glory in the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Bless we the Lord: Thanks be to God.

● The Topic

Certainty

In this changing, uncertain world of ours with the limitations of our minds and senses, it is impossible to be **certain** of anything. We receive impressions and interpret them on the basis of our limited experiences. We have enough to go on, but no one can expect absolute certainty in anything. The resurrection of Jesus is as certain as anything can be in the world in which we live. We base our assurance on the testimony of our senses on what others say is their experience and on our reason. We should add to that our Faith. For what we believe at the core of our lives to a large extent conditions our impressions and modifies our conclusions from them.

Testimony

The historic testimony to our Lord's Resurrection is strong. It is the account of eye-witnesses. Not that we have an account of the actual coming forth from the tomb. It seems no one saw that. But persons who saw His body put into the tomb and who saw the Roman guard seal the stone and take their posts, testify that they saw that the seals had been broken and that the body was no longer there. Also the same persons who saw Him die on the cross, testify that they saw Him several or many times after His burial, that He was alive, that they saw Him eat, heard Him speak, touched His living body and had fellowship with Him like that they had enjoyed before the crucifixion. Also that many of them were skeptical about the whole matter and that only after some time and repeated contacts with Jesus alive after death, would they believe that this had actually happened. Most of the critical evidence agrees that the records we have are trustworthy and that they are reasonably accurate reports of the views and convictions of those who saw Jesus after He arose.

Presuppositions

It ought to be noted that while we think of rising from the dead as almost, if not quite impossible, the ideas among those who saw Jesus after His resurrection were not so limited. The idea of keeping on living and of coming back to life was a common idea. When Jesus asked the disciples who people said He was, they replied that most people thought He was one of the old prophets come to life again. And so great a skeptic as Herod thought that Jesus was John the Baptist whom he had had beheaded and whose head he had seen on a plate in his living room, when he had the men hand it over to his illegal wife's daughter because she had pleased him with her dancing. That great spirits never die is an almost universal belief among mankind. It is here that our Faith—"what we believe at the core of our lives"—being very narrow and paltry, makes it hard for us to accept the testimony of men and women of richer faith and broader outlook on life.

Experience

There is further evidence tending to confirm the fact of the resurrection of Jesus. It is the continued experience

of his presence. It has been noted that the experiences of being with Jesus after His resurrection were such that they led the disciples to realize that He, though "unseen He is forever at hand". They were led to expect him at any time and any where. They came to realize as one of them expressed it, that Jesus is "with us to the end of the world". They came to live in His presence. They taught others so to live. And down through the centuries the conviction of the presence of the living Christ has been the outstanding fact in the life of His Church. We experience that, too. We think of Christ not only walking among the lilies of Galilee and hanging on the cross; but we think of Him and experience Him present every day and every where. We find His words true, "Lo! I am with you". So we talk with Him in prayer and sing our songs to and with Him. He is a living factor in our lives. Without Him we would be lost. He walks with us by the way as He did with the two going to Emmaus. He asks us as He did Peter, "Do you love me?" He tells us, too, to tend His lambs and His sheep. George Washington does not so affect us, or Martin Luther, or St. Paul. He was dead, yes; but he is alive forevermore—surely. Indeed, none of our records of Jesus would have been written at all were it not for the certainty that He having died, rose again the third day. Paul sums it up, "If Christ is not risen . . . your faith is empty . . . we are of all men most miserable; . . . but now is Christ risen from the dead."

Certainty

On the testimony of eye-witnesses whose record is true and properly set down and transmitted to us, on the basis of a sound faith, richer than the skepticism current about us, on our own experience of the presence and love of the living Christ, we base our certainty of His resurrection.

"Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book; but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing ye might have life through His name. This is the disciple which testifieth of these things and wrote these things and we know his testimony is true."

● Questions

How can we be sure of anything?

What is a scientific test?

How can we be sure of any historic fact?

Are the evidences for the resurrection such as are acceptable and sufficient for an historic fact?

Why is it hard for any to believe in the resurrection?

Do we know it all?

What limitations are there on our knowledge?

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TOPIC STUDY FOR APRIL 8 « « «

I after Easter

"SHOOTING STRAIGHT" or THINGS WE OUGHT TO KNOW— ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Psalm 78:1-8

(This material was prepared by the Misses Gloria Crooks, Betty Cooper, Patricia Hershey, and Janet Hoover—all Ohio Luther Leaguers.)

• Program

Musical Prelude

Call to Worship

"O Master Workman of the Race"

O Master Workman of the race,
Thou Man of Galilee,
Who with the eyes of early youth
Eternal things did see,
We thank Thee for Thy boyhood faith,
That shone Thy whole life through;
Did ye not know it is my work,
My ather's work to do?

O Carpenter of Nazareth,
Builder of life divine,
Who shapest man to God's own law,
Thyself the fair design,
Build us a tower of Christ-like height,
That we the land may view,
And see, like Thee, our noblest work
Our Father's work to do.

O Thou who dost the vision send
And gives to each his task,
And with the task sufficient strength,
Show us Thy will, we ask;
Give us a conscience bold and good,
Give us a purpose true,
That it may be our highest joy,
Our Father's work to do.

Hymn: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

Scripture: Psalm 78:1-8

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, without whose help labor is useless, without whose light search is vain, invigorate our studies and direct our inquiries, that by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Thy holy faith. Let us not linger in ignorance, but enlighten and support us. Open wide the window of our spirits, and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain Thee with all our powers of adoration and love. We ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: "Take My Life" (278 PSH)

Topic and Discussion

Hymn: "O Master Let Me Walk" (288 PSH)

Offering

The Lord's Prayer

• The Topic

"Shooting Straight"

Archery is becoming one of the favorite pastimes of our generation. There is excitement in endeavoring to become a better "shot", and there is always a thrill when we really "hit the bull's eye".

Setting up the Target

The first step in the game always is setting up the target. We look for something substantial, which will stand up in the wind and will not collapse after a few arrows pierce it.

In our League work, we can apply the same principle. We must have a goal that is ideal. The Luther League has fundamentals which, we believe, are ideal in every respect. We call our organization a workshop for the leaders of tomorrow. Our motto, "Of the Church, By the Church, For the

Church", sets forth our strategy of aim-for the target.

Fundamentally, our League principles have remained the same through times of war and peace, poverty and prosperity, and every changing period during the last 50 years. Thousands of Lutheran young folk have been aiming at this target for this past half-century, and it still remains, solid and unwavering.

Stringing the Bow

With such a sound target before us, we turn now to stringing the bow. No matter how close our target, the human hand can not send the arrow forcibly, or true enough, through the air to find its mark. A person must match his strength to his bow, which is strung accordingly. Thus the power needed to drive the arrow is provided. Our national organization provides an adequate program, and we have the ideals for which we are aiming, but God gives us the power that is so necessary to make our League click. God's source of power is immeasurable, and He provides each person with the amount necessary to meet his needs. True, as we seek, so we shall find. As we become capable through prayer and growth in Christian life, God grants us power with increasing sufficiency.

Choosing the Arrows

The feathers are of prime importance to the arrow. When a marksman picks his arrows, the first thing he inspects is the condition of the feathers, for they guide the arrow to its destination.

Our Luther League has three good feathers to help us hit our target. There is a well-rounded program consisting of **education, life service, and missions**. These are the formulas with which we experiment and test our work as we continue in our work-shop.

Through educational procedures, we discover the real background of our endeavor. We learn ways of developing our personal life to make it mean much more to ourselves, our companions, our church, and our community.

Many a Leaguer has weighed the matter of full-time Life Service, while

in the work-shop. The joys and experiences that come to missionaries, ministers, and deaconesses, can not be fully understood by anyone else. No doubt these three good feathers have influenced the decisions of many sincere members of our organizations in choosing their vocation.

The third feather, which represents missions, is the one that will surely guide our arrow direct to our target if it comes from the depth of our hearts. The very center of Christianity involves the challenge, "Go ye, and teach". This does send young folk to the ends of the world, carrying God's love to those who have not heard, but it should also send you and me to our next-door neighbor, the person with whom we work, or the kid down the street.

By rightly promoting our three-fold program, we select an arrow with three fine feathers. A well-made arrow has a certain amount of flexibility. If this were not true, it could hit the bull's-eye, but break from the impact against the target. It must also have a point, so that after hitting the target, it will remain there.

And so with our devotional programs. The three-fold program must be prepared to suit our local needs, or the spirit of our organization may be broken because of its unfamiliarity. The point of our arrow is kept sharp by meeting the needs of the Leaguers; and in this way, after hitting the target, becomes imbedded there.

It is the objective of national headquarters to keep our program alert and up-to-the-minute, but since we make up the Luther League of America, it is our job to see that the point is kept sharp.

The Marksman

Any person may have the finest archery equipment in the world, but without applying himself, it is useless.

Our Luther League has a target, which is an ideal goal—a bow, with unquestionable power—selected arrows, comprising a unique program; so you and I must see that this organization has the finest of marksmen. We must learn of Jesus Christ to qualify ourselves. It takes constant practice and training, but if God be for us, who can fail?

The Luther League of America will surely hit the bull's eye!

• Bible Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1. The children of Israel are here told not only to learn, but to live in accordance with their knowledge.

Exodus 12:26. The time has come when we should question our religious services and fundamentals in order that we may know the depth and meaning expressed in the words we use in our worship services.

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TOPIC STUDY FOR APRIL 15 » » »

II after Easter

THINGS WE OUGHT TO KNOW—ABOUT THE MISSIONARY PROGRAM

Acts 1:8

(This material was prepared by a group of New York State Luther Leaguers, Mohawk Valley District, under the guidance of Miss Florence L. Agne)

● Program

Hymn: "Fling Out the Banner" (166 PSH)
Scripture: Acts 1:1-8

Prayer: O God, Who didst so love the world as to give Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life; look with compassion upon the heathen who know Thee not, and on the multitudes that are scattered as sheep having no shepherd. May we be the messengers of Thy gospel, seek them that are lost, and restore them unto Thee. Grant us a ready will to obey Thy work. We thank Thee that we are Thy children. Help us to walk as children of light. Lead us and guide us as we strive to follow Thy command. Make us a real blessing to the world of our day. Give us the strength and faith to go forth in Thy service. Be with our missionary enterprises throughout the world and may they be enabled to carry on through these trying times. These things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(Or Collect 19 PSB or 52, 53 and 54 CSB.)

The Topic

Discussion

Psalm 67 or 46

Offering

Prayer: Circle of Prayer (each member praying for one of our missions)

Hymn: "O Zion, Haste" (160 PSB)

● The Topic

Sending the Gospel of Christ To All the World

"It's the word of a gentleman of the most strict and sacred honor, so there's an end of it," said Dr. Livingstone, the great missionary, as he placed his finger on "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20) These are the words of Jesus to us, and we must obey them. There are no studies more interesting, no work more important, and no call more urgent for Christian young people, than that of missionary work, or the sending out of the truths of Christ to every part of the earth. It was Paul who really established the foreign missionary work. He went into many cities and lands and told the story of God's love. We are Christians today largely because of Paul's teachings and work.

As a boy, William Carey, the shoemaker, said, "If I begin a thing, I must go through with it". That became the purpose of his life. When he became a Christian he was a cobbler and at

his workbench there was always found a Bible, a copy of Captain Cook's voyages and a grammar. On the wall of his shop was a map of the world, and printed on the map were the words: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish." Then William Carey went to India, translated the Bible, and became the first great missionary of modern days.

David Livingstone, as a poor Scotch boy, went barefoot and worked in a mill. He had to struggle hard to get an education. He became a doctor. His heart yearned to go to China, but instead he was prepared by the mission board to go to Africa. As he was about to embark he said that he would have been willing to go anywhere that God sent him. That's a mark of a real missionary. It's a wonderful story—this story of the passion of God's love in David's heart, and a deep zeal for the souls of men in darkness. Today, Africa is blessed and the whole world is made better by David Livingstone, who was willing to carry Christ to the dark spots of the earth.

Can you recall what you know about Samuel? Perhaps you have a copy of Sir Joshua Reynolds', "The Child Samuel at Prayer", somewhere in your home. Sir Reynolds put on canvas the most sacred moment in the young life of the boy Samuel. God is speaking to His servant and Samuel is listening. That's a great art. Samuel learned how to listen to God at a very early age. I wonder if God is not calling some of our young people in the Luther League all across this great nation of ours to become leaders either in the great missionary work of America or that of our fields in foreign lands? Have you cultivated the habit of listening to God daily? Listen, isn't God calling **you** right now into this glorious work of sending the gospel out into all the earth?

Our Mission Fields

Our Lutheran Church has a missionary background of which we can well be proud to have anyone examine.

Two years ago we celebrated the centennial of our work in India, the oldest overseas mission, begun by that "sainted man of God", Father Heyer, at Guntur. Three years later, in 1845,

the Rajahmundry field was acquired by the American Lutheran Church. These are our two main fields in India, covering an area of 15,000 square miles. Luther Leaguers have contributed to two of India's educational institutions, Lutherigiri Seminary and Andhra Christian College, but additional schools are needed as shown by her illiteracy rate of 12.17%. Indian Christians must increasingly look to themselves to the power of Christ in their own Church, and their own life. This Church is a significant part of our total world fellowship.

Over 6,000 Christians have been brought to Christ through baptism in our Chinese mission since its beginning in 1925. The T'ai Tung Chen Church was built with funds contributed by the Luther League. Our five Chinese pastors are outstanding because of their leadership and responsibility of carrying the churches safely through the present crisis. Their field lies over an area of 15,000 square miles in the eastern portion of the province of Shantung, where they must see that services are conducted regularly, and that catechising and baptizing Christians and evangelistic work is carried on. China presents a great challenge to our missionaries. After this world conflict has ceased it will be the missionaries that will be called upon first to bind up the wounds of China.

South America is a new field for our missionaries. We have barely scratched the surface in this work among our southern cousins. Our work is chiefly confined to the countries of British Guiana and Argentina. It is expected that thousands of families will come to Argentina after the war and among them will come hundreds of Lutherans. Hence, an urgent need for missionaries—men should be called and prepared in the Spanish language as well as German, Polish, Slovak, etc.

The work in Liberia, Africa, grows year after year. We hope to number 3,000 souls in this land before long. This work was begun by Morris Officer as a student at Wittenberg College when he collected \$3,000 to establish our work there. For 23 years, David Day and his wife devoted their lives to furthering this mission work so that even today this part of Liberia is known as "Dr. Day's Country". Several years ago Luther Leaguers became especially interested in this mission field as the National Project at that time was to raise \$10,000 for the Boys School which was over-subscribed by \$1274.56.

No, the Christian Church is not dead in Japan. Our missionaries are praying for the day when they can begin to preach and teach His Word to these

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TOPIC STUDY FOR APRIL 22 » » »

III after Easter

THINGS WE OUGHT TO KNOW—ABOUT THE LIFE SERVICE PROGRAM

Isaiah 6:1-8

(Topic prepared by Miss Bernice Carlson for the Luther League of Illinois)

● To the Leader

This service could be held in a candle-lit room. The chairs should be arranged in the form of a cross. If your church has a life service flag, have it on display with the Christian flag and American flag.

Everything should be in readiness and as the Prelude is played all should gather around for silent prayer.

● Suggested Program

Prelude: "If Thou But Suffer God" (398 CSB)
Call to Worship:

"Youth, O youth, can I reach you
Can I speak and make you hear,
Can I open your eyes to see me,
Can My presence draw you near?"

Hymn: "Take My Life" (278 PSB)

Read Responsively: Psalm 116 (Page 43 PSB)

Prayer by the Leader: "Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our work begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name and finally by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord." Amen.

Special Music:

Vocal Solo: "Saviour, Thy Dying Love"

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Hymn: "O Master, Let Me Walk" (288 PSB)

Presentation of the Topic: This should be done by three Leaguers, each concentrating on one part.

Offering

Hymn: "May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"

Lord's Prayer and Benediction

● The Topic

Meaning—Aims

Life Service is living for Christ. As one person has defined it, "So surrounded by the love of Christ that I must serve." It is the duty and privilege of the Christian to please and serve Christ. In order to get the most out of the Life Service Program we must know its aims. One of the chief aims is to challenge one to consider a full-time service for Christ in the lines of the ministry, parish worker, missionary service, and the diaconate. If full-time service is not one's call, he or she can serve with gifts of time or money. Another aim is to give counsel and advice to the youth in Christ. Advice along vocational as well as avocational activities. Because of the advice of a life service worker two lads now serving Uncle Sam are planning to go into full-time service when the war is over. This is just one example, there are countless others that never come into view. Another aim of the Life Service Program is to encourage young people to plan their lives around God and His plans. The Luther League of America issues the Life Service Covenant Cards which sum up the meaning and purpose of Life Service, "It is my purpose with God's help, to follow Jesus Christ. I will not drift into my

life work, but I will earnestly seek God's will and as it becomes clear to me I will do it gladly."

Life Service and the Present

Now as never before the Life Service Program needs the college students and the leadership qualities of the young business men and women. You can aid in two ways, materially and spiritually. From your church doubtless many young men are serving in the armed forces. You can write letters to these men and also to the young women. More than that, you can use the power of prayer to pray for your country and its people. It is not only your opportunity but your obligation as a Christian to do your part spiritually. In a material way you are vitally needed. Daily there are calls from the Red Cross to donate blood and time to making up bandages. On the home-front are many elderly people who could use and would appreciate your help. After work you can offer your time at your local hospital as a student aide. Many schools are offering specialized courses to young people free of charge. You can take these courses and prepare yourself for emergencies and be ready to assist in the peace to come. We must not forget the Life Service program in the local church. Your pastor could be assisted with stenographic work, office help. Your enthusiasm is needed in the choir, Sunday School and in the visitation program. Does your church need an Intermediate leader? Offer your services. How about that Parish School program? Do you share your car when you go to church? Yes, as we view the world in which we live we see that the Life Service Program fits into the present picture.

We ought to realize that the Life Service Program is accomplishing results. Life Service secretaries report that local Leagues are keeping Life Service alive by promoting programs. What has your group done for Life Service recently? At the present young people are joining in full-time service. One young lady who has been accepted as probationer for the diaconate writes, "It has been a wonderful and happy year for me—never once have I regretted this step. It seems that finally I have stopped marking time and am living and working at what I was meant for. The Motherhouse group of

girls were so fine and we had such good times studying and playing together. The group of workers at the Settlement was very congenial and I loved working there. What a difference it makes when all are interested in the same big work of the Kingdom."

In the present day the Life Service Program needs you. Do you hear the voice of the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" and do you answer, "Here am I; send me."? Jesus had compassion on the multitude. As you look at the present Life Service Program and face its needs, have the compassion of Jesus.

Life Service and the Future

The Future Life Service Program depends on the members of the present program. You say, "I can not be of any help in the Life Service Program, I have no talent". You can be of use to God if you will offer your service, for Jesus gives strength and as He says in His Word, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you".

The Life Service Program of the future needs young men and women who will put their talents to use for Christ. Warner Sallman, the artist who has painted pictures of Christ that appear all over the country, has given up his secular work and now devotes all his time and talent to religious themes. He says, "I believe the Lord has given me a job to do—of pointing people to Christ through the medium of art..."

The Life Service Program of the future needs young leaders who will see the vision of lost souls and do something about it. You do not have to be a preacher or missionary; you can live Christ in all phases of activity. Gil Dodds, who brought the running record down to 4:06.4; Gil Dodds, who is known by every athletic-minded person, is one of the strongest witnesses for Jesus Christ the world of sports has ever seen. He says, "I think many of you realize that running is only a hobby with me. My main job in life is serving the Lord Jesus Christ..." The Life Service Program of the future needs young people whose main job is "serving the Lord Jesus Christ".

The Life Service Program has goals for the future. They want a Life Service Secretary in every local League. They want a Life Service Program which will encourage interest in the ministry, diaconate and the mission field. They want Luther Leaguers to use their talents for Christ. They want Luther Leaguers to center their lives in the Lord Jesus. They want you. Will you answer, "Here I am, send me?"

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The Intermediates Call, "Come Over and Help Us"

II Timothy 2:1-7

● Preparation

Advertise the meeting with a poster. Use Hoffman's picture of "Christ Before the Doctors". Use wording similar to "Come to League and learn about the followers of the Intermediate Christ Child."

● Program

Introduction

Hymn: "I Think, When I Read"

Scripture: II Timothy 2:1-7

Prayer: Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for sending Thy Son into the world as a Babe, to grow in like manner as we grow. We thank Thee for His years of youth. Give us, through Thy Holy Spirit an understanding heart, that we, too, may be about our Father's business. We ask this in the name of this Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Topic: "What Is An Intermediate"

Hymn: "Hushed Was the Evening Prayer"

Topic: "He Increased in Wisdom"

"He Increased in Stature"

"He Increased in Favor with God and Man"

Hymn: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Offering

Topic: "Why Should I Be Interested?"

"How Can I Help?"

Hymn: "Lord, Speak To Me"

Discussion

Lord's Prayer

Benediction:

"May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
And the Father's boundless love
With the Holy Spirit's favor
Rest upon us from above."

● The Topic

The Intermediates Call

Introduction

We catch our only glimpse of the Intermediate Christ Child in the familiar Gospel story of Christ in the Temple, "sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions". The Gospel writer, Luke, closes his account of this vivid scene with the words, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." These few words about the Boy Jesus help us in our understanding of the Intermediate boys and girls around us.

What Is An Intermediate?

He is your younger brother or sister. He is your pupil in Sunday School or perhaps in public school. She is the girl who is beginning to notice that there are such persons as boys in the world. If there is an annoying mischief maker around the church, he is almost certain to be in this particular age group. The dictionary defines the word "Intermediate" is "existing or lying in the middle; intervening." In our Luther League program he is the

12, 13 and 14-year-old inbetween the child, or the Children of the Church, and the Senior Luther League. In school he is the Junior High pupil. Recently, the writer asked a group of Intermediate boys in Sunday School, "What is an Intermediate?" Surprisingly this answer came from one of the group, "He is a juvenile delinquent". This much discussed question had caused him to label all youth of this age in the category of delinquents.

It is true that you feel a bit superior to his boisterous ways, but remember he has within him the potentialities of Christian leadership. An Intermediate Luther Leaguer is a youth so busy doing the right thing, he hasn't time to become a delinquent.

"He Increased in Wisdom"

In the home, in school, in fellowship with his companions, and at the moving pictures, the Intermediate becomes wise in the wisdom of this world, but all too often a knowledge of even the simplest historical facts of the Bible are neglected in his growth in wisdom of God's Truth.

In the Intermediate Luther League the "Teen Ager" begins to learn that the business of the Church and Christ's Kingdom is also an important part of the world in which he lives. Here he lays the foundation stone for his larger development in the Senior and Young People's groups. Without this first step, he would find it much harder to begin in the older groups to take part in business meetings, conduct devotionals and direct the activities of the League. Given the opportunity, the Intermediate growth in wisdom is rapid. Shall this opportunity lie in the direction of the world or the Church? The Intermediate Christ was found in the Temple asking questions of the doctors. Where do the "Teen Agers" of my Church go to seek wisdom?

"Increased in Stature"

Active and full of energy, the Intermediate is constantly seeking something to do. The dominant factor in his life is to have a good time. He wants to be with the gang and do as they do. This desire for activity with a group can well be satisfied by the use of the Intermediate Luther League program. Its social functions, outdoor sports, and constant fellowship in meeting together will lead to a wholesome

growth in Christian fellowships and in fair and honest dealings with his fellow Leaguers.

His rapid physical growth is sometimes bewildering to the Intermediate himself as well as to his family and friends. He needs the sympathetic guidance of older youths, into clean, wholesome living devoid of harmful habits, in order that his body may develop into the strong physique God intended he should have. How are the "Teen Agers" of my Church growing in stature?

"Increased in Favor with God and Man"

A Hebrew boy at the age of twelve becomes a "Son of the Law" by a ceremony similar to Confirmation. The serious responsibilities of religion are now placed upon him. Thus Christ was taken by His parents to the "Feast of the Passover". Our Intermediate Leaguers stand on the threshold of serious Church membership, and are more in need of every possible help for spiritual growth than at any other time in their lives. They need the encouragement of Sunday School and Church attendance and of daily Bible reading which the Intermediate Luther League program will give them. They need an introduction to good literature, which they will find in the Reading Course books and "The Luther League Review" and Topics Quarterlies. They need the challenging appeal of social, home and foreign missions which they will find especially developed for their particular age group in this program. There is no greater challenge for Christian service than to assist the Intermediate in his development to increase in favor with God and man. Good habits formed at this period of his life will continue with him throughout life. Can I help the Intermediates of my church to grow in favor with God and man?

Why Should I Be Interested?

The future leadership and growth of my own group depends upon the Intermediate Luther League. The type of members my group will have within the next few years depends upon the training they will receive as Intermediates. If I am an alumnus of the Intermediate League, I know its value and should not be content unless I know others are receiving the same training. My loyalty to this group should be stronger than my loyalty to my High School, or College. Christ's admonition, "freely ye have received, freely give", pertains to more than money. It also means my time and my talents. If I did not have the training of the Intermediate League, I know by observation the advantage of such training and should be ready to see that others profit thereby.

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TOPIC STUDY CONTINUATIONS » »

For March 4

(Continued from Page 13)

lieve it. And that is our greatest danger. There are dangers which are unnoticed. If danger is perceived, something can be done to avoid it. But when the watchman cries all is well, when there is danger, that is terrible.

We need to turn about as much as Nicodemus needed it. We need to be reborn, completely made over. What could the prodigal son do? Nothing but turn around and go home. What could the lost sheep do? Nothing but give up to the Shepherd when He came and took it on His shoulders. What can we do? Nothing, but turn to God with all our heart and let Him do with us as He will. Sin is seeking to have our own way. When we give that up and turn around and let God have His Way, then we find salvation.

Salvation all the Way

The Salvation we find goes all the way. It cleans out our sin. It fills our lives with goodness. It takes away our fears and fills our hearts with faith. It cures our sicknesses and makes our bodies whole. It opens our blinded eyes and we see the Glory of God aflame in every step of the road. It lifts our souls to God and gives life meaning, purpose and power. Salvation preserves us from destruction, danger, and calamity—personal, social and national. It is the world's greatest need. Our holy Saviour has provided it and gives it to all who trust Him. The next topic will show that more particularly. In Him is Life and Salvation.

• Questions

Work out your own definition of salvation, in the League.

Does salvation have anything to do with health?

Does salvation mean correct ideas?

How does salvation affect the feelings?

What do people who are saved do about their environment?

What do they do about those who are not saved?

Can we have individual without social salvation?

Can there be social salvation without individual salvation?

Does America need salvation? Why?

• Quotes and Comments

The purpose of God is to save those who believe in Christ. . . . He desires the salvation of all, has made provision for the salvation of all and works for the salvation of all through the Means of Grace. . . . While salvation is offered to all, it is actually possessed only by him who accepts it by faith.

—Stump

Salvation is for the whole man. When Christ comes into our lives He saves completely. He "makes whole"—disease is overcome; confusion is cleared; enmity becomes love; fear is changed to faith and death itself is the way to fuller life.

Physical health has not been a serious concern of the main stream of American Christianity. The power of the Christian faith has not been made available for bodily health to the ordinary, regular member of our churches. He looks on it as something foreign to the faith he holds. And this in spite of the fact that his own Master spent a large part of his time and emphasis and power on the bodily health of those around him. It was an integral part of his mission.

—Stanley Jones

Salvation is making one. It is the restoration and preservation of integrity, union, fellowship. It means for the body, health; for the mind, clarity and integrity; for the emotions and affections, the great enthusiasm; for the conscience, peace in upright life; for society, a center of organization and an overcoming of the disunions of race, class, nation and clique; for the world it means peace and co-operation; and for all, the Kingdom of Heaven.

What can mortal man do to secure his own salvation? Mortal man can do just what God bids him do. He can repent and believe. He can arise and follow Christ as Matthew did.

—Gladden

• Bible Readings

Romans 1:16-18. Note salvation is for all—no race or class discrimination. It is for everyone who believes. But it is only for those who believe; who put their trust in God—not in themselves or their own worth. God cannot tolerate ungodliness and unrighteousness. Perfection—holiness is His will. Where do you stand? Do you trust Him in spite of your sin? Will you let Him have His way with you?

Romans 10:1-10. There may be zeal for God and right, but unless it is also in humble faith, it is no good. That was Jesus. Quiet faith working with God in doing good. What is the root of zeal you may have—God or glory for yourself or your League or your church or your nation?

II Corinthians 7:9-11. It is a good thing to face our own shortcomings and to realize how bad we are. It is not pleasant. Moral discontent works out in added good and turns the careless to God and salvation.

Philippians 2:12-15. We depend on God but we work with the grace He gives. Too much Christianity is depending without working. We cannot get it ourselves. We cannot have it without working as God gives grace and guidance.

Hebrews 2:1-4. God is giving us a chance. Pretty bad if we pass it up. Worse, it is fatal. Life is not a joke. Our decisions are real. They do make a difference. Which will it be for you?

I Peter 1:3-12. All of salvation is not realized at once or in this life. There is more and better ahead, being kept safe for us as we are being prepared to enjoy and use it to God's glory.

II Timothy 3:14-17. The Word shows us the way. We have the Word of God. We have the holy scriptures which show us the way of life in Christ—our salvation.

• To Read

"Realizing Religion" by S. Shoemaker.

"Meaning of the Cross" by Edward Grubb.

"Fact of Christ" by P. T. Simpson.

"Twice Born Men" by Harold Begbie.

• To Do

Trust God.

Turn from every evil.

Lead others to do the same.

Work for good in the community.

Go yourself or send others to proclaim the Gospel everywhere.

• Films

(16 mm.—Rent from Publication House, Philadelphia)

"Barabbas" (21 min., sound)

"A Certain Nobleman" (20 min., sound; or 30 min. silent)

"Fishers of Men" (20 min., sound)

"Ministry of Healing" (15 min., silent)

"Hours of Trial", part 2 (15 min., silent)

"Way of Salvation" (25 min., sound)

"Prodigal Son" (22 min., sound)

"Power of God" (55 min., sound)

For March 11

(Continued from Page 14)

and then we are free. Freedom is much sought after these days, for it is much desired. It is not found except in Christ.

Luke 19:1-10. Note the change in Zaccheus and note what Jesus said of the purpose of His life. Did Jesus accomplish His purpose? Is it being carried out now? Are you helping?

I John 5:1-5. Victory comes to those who have the right faith. The faith which sees God in Christ and depends on His grace.

I Timothy 1:15. This is one of Paul's summaries of the Gospel. Have you found it true? Was Paul a worse sinner than you?

• To Read

"Children of the Second Birth" by S. Shoemaker.

"In the Hand of the Potter" by H. Begbie.

Books by Grace L. Hill all show the power of Christ in people's lives; e.g., "Happiness Hill", "Patricia".

"God in the Shadows" by Hugh Redwood.

• To Do

Turn to God with all your heart.

Ask Christ to keep and use you.

Follow His guidance in each little thing.

Seek others who need Him, too.

Start a movement in the League to lead others to salvation in Christ.

Be active in the Pocket Testament League which is one way of doing this

• Films

(See preceding topic)

For MARCH 18

(Continued from Page 19)

you succeeded in growing in Christian knowledge? Have you let your light so shine before men that they have seen your good works? Have you been shining models of godliness? Does the world know you and must the world respect you as one who does not stray from the paths of righteousness? God gave His Son for you; have you given all you can for Him? Upon the answer which you may be able to give to these questions, depends God's decision as to whether your repentance is acceptable or not. If yours is a true repentance of the heart, then come to God confessing your sins, asking His forgiveness, expressing your faith in His Son and God will accept you as a penitent worthy of His forgiveness.

• Questions and Comments

In your opinion, should we encourage death-bed repentance?

Which do you think is more acceptable, a life of daily repentance or a life of sin followed by death-bed repentance?

Is it right to repent today and then commit the same sins tomorrow?

Give your own definition of acceptable repentance.

Even though we should repent, would we still be assured of God's forgiveness if Christ had not died for our sins?

Is repentance without an expression of faith in Christ acceptable to God?

If you answer the above question in the negative, then what about the Jew? Can he ever be saved?

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TOPIC STUDY CONTINUATIONS » »

For MARCH 18—Continued

(Continued from Page 26)

• True—False Questions

1. There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repenteth than over ninety-nine just persons. (True)
2. Jesus declared that the publican, in the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, was justified because he had had the pleasure of sinning for many years before he repented. (False)
3. True repentance means turning away from sin and living a life in harmony with God's will. (True)
4. It is better to have sinned and repented than never to have sinned at all. (False)
5. Death-bed repentance is better than no repentance at all. (True)

• Bible Readings

Luke 15:11-32. We are all familiar with the story of the Prodigal Son. He was truly repentant when he returned to his father. Not all lost children return to God. Fortunately the prodigal son did. He came home as a penitent sinner and he was received. Our Lord says that there was great rejoicing in that household because the son that had been lost was found.

Luke 22:62. Peter was sure that he would never deny Christ. He was sure that he was ready to go with Jesus both into prison and to death. That was when Peter saw no immediate danger. But when he thought his own life was in peril, Peter quickly denied ever knowing Jesus. However, Peter truly repented also. When he repented, he went out and wept bitterly. Later when he was filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, he preached boldly and in the end died the death of a martyr. His repentance was followed by action—action for his Lord's cause.

Jonah 3:10. The people of Ninevah had been exceedingly evil. Jonah was very reluctant to preach repentance to such a people. He even disobeyed God at first and went another direction when commanded to go to Ninevah. But Jonah could not long disobey and finally obeyed God by preaching to Ninevah. His preaching was not in vain. The people repented and repented and evidently their repentance was acceptable, for in our text we see that God decides not to punish them because they had turned from their evil way. How many times have you, like Jonah, rebelled? How often have you thought that it was no use to try to take the gospel to some "hopeless" individual? Always remember, your job is to carry the gospel. God will know when and if it bears fruit.

Jeremiah 4:14. God is exhorting Jerusalem to cleanse its heart from wickedness and be saved. From this verse, it is very evident that the only repentance which God would accept from the people of Jerusalem was a washing of all wickedness out of their hearts. So, too, God speaks to us and reminds us that if we would be saved, we must not only no longer indulge in evil, but must wash its dirty stains out of our lives entirely. There is no part-way road to repentance.

Luke 18:13, 14. The story of the Pharisee and the publican in the temple is one that is well known. The Pharisee was evidently a good man and the publican was not. But when they prayed, the Pharisee boasted of his goodness; the publican humbly confessed his sins and the record tells us that the publican was justified, while the Pharisee was not. In other words, the publican, because of the very humility of his confession of sins, repented in a way that was acceptable to God.

Luke 15:4-10. Twice in these few verses of Scripture, Christ speaks of the joy that there is in heaven over the sinner who repents. Why should there not be? Does not such a person represent the harvest of our labors? We, too, ought to rejoice when one who was lost is found.

Luke 14:25-33. We are reminded that to be a follower of Christ there are many worldly things which must be given up or at least be made to take a secondary place in our lives. So also when we repent, if that repentance is to be acceptable to God, we must be willing

to give up things which may, to us, seem very important if those things are contrary to God's will. We cannot repent and then expect to serve two masters.

• Quotes and Comments

True repentance consists of the heart being broken for sin and broken from sin. Some often repent, yet never reform; they resemble a man traveling in a dangerous path, who frequently starts and stops, but never turns back.

—Thornton

Mere sorrow, which weeps and sits still, is not repentance. Repentance is sorrow converted into action; into a movement toward a new and better life.

—M. R. Vincent

Late repentance is seldom true, but true repentance is never too late.

—R. Venning

You cannot repent too soon, because you do not know how soon it may be too late.

—Fuller

• To Read

"Twice Born Men" by H. Begbie.

"The Robe" by L. Douglass.

"The Brother" by Dorothy Wilson.

"The Lost Word" by Henry VanDyke.

"For Sinners Only" by J. J. Russell.

• To Do

Turn to God yourself.

Keep close to Him. Do not turn back from Him again.

Speak to others about turning closer to Him.

Gather a group of friends to help each other in constant communion and increasing repentance toward God.

• Films

(See under March 4)

For MARCH 25

(Continued from Page 20)

we want all to enjoy it with us. As Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, wandering without hope or God in the confusion and despair of godlessness, so we want to share with all the glory and joy of life we have found in Him. We want all to know Christianity for it is true religion and religion is the center and source of all fine living.

• Questions

What are the marks of a true religion?

How do we know Christianity came from God?

Does Christianity lead people to God?

Have all who profess Christianity found God?

Does Christianity produce better life?

Does Christianity produce better living conditions?

Is Christianity's promise of everlasting life of any value as an incentive? As a hope? As giving stability?

Is it true that Jesus' words offer a firm foundation for happiness and good life?

If Jesus' teachings did not come from God, where did they come from?

Is Christianity today a reliable source of true Christian life as taught by Jesus Christ?

• Bible Readings

John 3:1-13. Do these words have any value in showing where our faith has come from and what it really does? Are they evidence that Christianity is a true religion?

John 3:31-36. These words are the testimony of a very early disciple who had experienced what Christ had done for him. Can they be paralleled today in anyone's experience? In yours?

Matthew 7:24, 25. Has this affirmation of Jesus been proved? How can it be proved? Have you proved it? Does Christianity bear out these words? Do they show that Christianity is a true religion?

John 20:30, 31. This may have been the original conclusion of John's gospel. In any case they are the testimony of someone who found life in Christ. Is that an unusual experience? Is it your experience? How does it help to show that Christianity is a true religion?

Galatians 4:4-7. This is a summary of Christianity. Is it true? Does it show Christianity to be a true religion?

Romans 8. Read the whole chapter and glory in it. It is the testimony of a faith and experience which is supported by the faith and experience of millions upon millions in all lands and ages. It is the outworking of Christianity in transformed lives, in high hopes, in sturdy assurance, in making us sons and heirs of God and the possessors of eternal life in Christ. Christianity is a true religion. It works.

I John 5:19, 20. Here is the assurance of one who lived close to Christ and found Christianity true and the way unto the true God and eternal life.

• Quotes

Religion is based on love of God, faith in Christ and hope of immortality.

—Begbie

For all weakness, there is strength; for all grief, there is comfort; for all monotony, there is joy; for all anguish, there is peace; for all mourning and lamentation, there is hope.

A soul isolated from God is a dead soul. Without the hope, love and sweetness of Christ no life can emerge into the true light of existence. Man can only be won to a longing after God and a realization of the grandeur of immortality by a Christ-inspired devotion.

Religion is always man's response to God. However superstitious in its corruption religion may become, back of it lies an experience of God. God has come to men. Men have found Him, sometimes in what seem unlikely places. In other ages the sun, the stars, a mountain height, a spring, the wind, spoke to men of God. Then the worship grew up, the sacrifices, the rituals, the priesthoods, the myths, seeking to conserve and give to men the god found, heard, seen in His works.

Among the Jews there was a different sort of revelation. God spoke in words. Men heard Him: Moses on the mount, Elijah in the cave, Ezekiel by the river, John the Baptist in the wilderness.

Then the day came when He spoke Himself as Man in Christ Jesus. All the revelations of the ages gathered up, fulfilled, purified in Him. This is the true God and eternal life.

—Selected

I desire no other evidence of the truth of Christianity than the Lord's Prayer.

—de Stael

• To Read

"What Is Christianity?" by A. Harnack.

"The Fact of Christ" by P. T. Simpson.

Confessions of St. Augustine.

"The Keys of the Kingdom" by A. J. Cronin.

"Is Christ Possible?" by P. W. Wilson.

"The Brother" by Dorothy Wilson.

"The Robe" by L. Douglass.

• To Do

Give yourself to Christ.

Let Him keep you and use you.

Tell others about Him.

Bring others to Him.

• Films

(See the first Sunday in the month)

TOPIC STUDY CONTINUATIONS » »

For APRIL 1

(Continued from Page 21)

How does faith give assurance

Are we moderns chiefly "children of faith" or skeptical critics?

If we are not sure about the resurrection—what then?

Can we live a good Christian life without much concern about Jesus' resurrection or our own?

Are those who have died, alive?

• Quotes and Comments

The importance of the resurrection may be gathered from the position its proclamation occupied in the preaching of the apostles.

—Morgan

It may at once be declared that every attempt to account for the victories of the Church apart from the resurrection is philosophically absurd and historically without proof.—Morgan.

Whatever may be the difficulties as to order or date no sober critic doubts that at the basis of the Gospel story lies a core of solid fact . . . within a very few days after the crucifixion the disciples actually saw what they believed to be their Master, and that no subsequent experience was able to shake their confidence in the fact that He had risen from the dead.

—Brown

Present Christian experience it cannot be too often repeated is the convincing evidence of the resurrection of Jesus.—Brown.

Nothing in this whole universe was ever destroyed, nor can it ever be, because the Creator has never created anything for destruction. If He wished to destroy it, He would never have created it.—Singh.

• Bible Readings

Mark 16:1-7. Note the women did not expect the resurrection. They found the tomb open. They did not find the body. Angels gave them a message. They were too frightened to say or do anything about it. Sounds like fact.

Matthew 28:1-10. This account is different. There is an earthquake—what other difference do you note between this and Mark's? Are they contradictory? Is there "a core of solid fact" clearly indicated? What is it?

John 20:1-10. Here is another account. What difference in this? Does it contradict the others? Do the same facts seem to be indicated? What are they?

Matthew 28:11-15. Here is a side-light. What does it seem to indicate? Did anything really happen? What?

Luke 24:13-35. Another experience. Does it fit in? Note this especially with the following.

Luke 24:36-48. Now it is not to isolated individuals but to a whole room full and with very convincing evidence. What do you make of this? Remember this is an account not by one who was there but by one who had taken pains to verify what he writes (Luke 1:1-4).

John 21. This is the Scripture for the topic. In many ways a climax to the whole series of recorded appearances of Jesus. Does it seem likely there were other appearances? We know our four gospels do not contain all that Jesus said or did and that they are a selection from a large amount of writing by the early Christians. The testimony really does pile up. The certainty of the resurrection is pretty sure.

• To Read

"The Christian Hope" by W. A. Brown.

"Science and Faith" by P. B. Bull.

"The Fact of Christ" by P. C. Simpson.

"The Crises of the Christ" by C. Morgan.

• Films

(16mm.—Rent from the Publication House)
"The Living Christ" (15 min., silent)

For APRIL 8

(Continued from Page 22)

Psalms 66:16. We who are the youth of the Church must have open ears, and find ourselves often in the places where we hear the pastors and leaders of our Church. Their experiences are a means of our resourcefulness to us.

Ezekiel 44:23. Luther League is a place where we can bring problems which confront us. There the complex situations in life can be discussed and very often by exchanging view points, we come to a clearer outlook on the thing that bothers us.

Psalms 31:24. Working together in such a grand organization as Luther League not only strengthens human friendships, but also helps us understand and become more conscious of our fellowship with Christ.

• One Thing and Another

"IF CONSECRATED"

Somewhere I have read of an artist falsely accused and thrown into prison. His brushes and paint were allowed him, but he had no canvas. One day he asked a man in the corridor for something upon which he might paint, and the man indifferently picked up an old soiled handkerchief and tossing it up to him said, "There, see what you can do with that", and the artist began to paint upon it the face of Jesus. The picture that he painted afterward became one of the famous paintings of the Master's face. He labored on it faithfully and when it was finished he showed it to the man and when he looked upon its marvelous sweetness it touched his heart and the tears flowed unbidden down. And as I recall the story the thought comes to me, if a poor artist could take an old soiled rag and so make it glow with the loveliness of Jesus that a careless, indifferent man could be touched into tears as he looked upon it, what might not the glorious Christ do with my life if I would but allow Him to have His way with me to reproduce His likeness through me.

—Rev. Wm. E. Biederwolf

"GOD'S FELLOW WORKERS"

It is said that when Thorwaldsen, the Danish sculptor, returned to his native land with those wonderful works of art which have made his name immortal, chiseled in Italy with patient toil and glowing inspiration, the servants who unpacked the marbles scattered upon the ground the straw which was wrapped around them. The next summer flowers from the gardens of Rome were blooming in the streets of Copenhagen, from the seeds thus borne and planted by accident. While pursuing his glorious purpose, and leaving magnificent results in breathing marble, the artist was, at the same time, and unconsciously, scattering other beautiful things in his path to give cheer and gladness.

So Christ's lowly workers unconsciously bless the world. They come out every morning from the presence of God and go to their work, intent upon their daily tasks. All day long, as they toil, they drop gentle words from their lips, and scatter little seeds of kindness about them; and tomorrow flowers from the garden of God spring up in the dusty streets of earth and along the hard paths of toil on which their feet tread. The Lord knows them among all others to be His by the beauty and usefulness of their lives.

—J. R. Miller

"THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH"

Let us have a church that dares
Imitate the heroism of Jesus;
Seek inspiration as He sought it;
Judge the past as He;
Act on the present like Him;
Pray as He prayed;
Work as He wrought;
Live as He lived.

Let us have a church for the whole man:
Truth for the mind,
Good works for the hands,
Love for the heart;
And for the soul, that aspiration after perfection,
That unfaltering faith in God,
Which, like lightning in the clouds,
Shines brightest when elsewhere it is most dark.

"YOUTH BUILDS"

Youth of the world, unite!
Youth of the world, strive, fight
For what you deem the right.

Youth sees with surer eyes,
Because its eyes are clear
Of prejudice and fear.
Youth need not compromise.

No compromise with wrong—
Let this our slogan be.
The league of youth is strong,
Stretching from sea to sea.

This world is ours to take;
This world is ours to make.
Let us build true and sure
A world that will endure;
Build out of right and truth,
Reared with this tool—our youth.

• Discussion Questions

What are some of the obstacles that hinder us in reaching our goal in our local League?

What can each Leaguer do to help remedy this?

Do you think your local League has an equally-balanced program? If not, what can you do about it?

• Suggestions to the Leader

To add to the attractiveness of the room, a target and arrows could be placed in the front of the room. If a real target is not available, an imitation can be easily made with a large piece of paper and color crayons to mark the different circles. Posters could be used to publicize your meeting, using the target and arrows idea.

For APRIL 15

(Continued from Page 23)

people. Remember, they are God's children, too.

We dare not let our work of missions pass without a word concerning our Home Missions.

Since 1928, we have been interested in Rocky Boy Mission in Montana. Here our work is chiefly among Indians.

Deep in the heart of the Virginia mountains lies the Konnarock training school which has become the answer to the prayers of the mountain folk to whom we minister there. The Luther League helped make possible the Konnarock Medical Center there several years ago.

Another project toward which our Luther Leaguers have contributed is in our mission field in Puerto Rico where they built the Monte Flores Training School for Christian Workers.

Modern Crusaders

Yes, those men and women who serve in our mission fields around the world are just that: "Modern Crusaders". Our boys and girls have marched off to answer the call of our country in a great struggle for freedom. Many a century ago the first missionary, Saul, answered the call for full-time service as a modern crusader under the Cross of Christ. Many have been the men and women who have followed in his footsteps. The call to come over into Macedonia and help us has found a willingness to sacrifice on the part of many a modern crusader in the mission fields of the world.

(Continued on Page 29)

For APRIL 15

(Continued from Page 28)

Just think of it! Over 200,000 modern crusaders in this missionary work. Listen! Is God calling you to be a modern crusader? Seek Him in prayer to find the answer to that soul-searching question. Will you be there to help in that great work? Can you qualify as a missionary teacher, nurse, or physician? See your pastor at once if this great call to serve is on your heart.

• Bible Readings

Matthew 28:18. Power. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Surely there has come into all our Christian living these days a new note of active evangelism, a new note of demand, and with it a new sense of the infinite resources of the Gospel to transform human life. We are profoundly concerned that the international order of the future should not be based upon material and military sanctions. Exactly the same kind of nationalism, of social concern, of unity, of power, should be displayed wherever and whenever Christians strive to fulfill their vocation. Here in America, we need an awakening to the need of missionary power. The power of the missionary cause will change our church thinking if we take on the whole challenge of the missionary program.

Matthew 28:19. Universality. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." If it be true that in Christ there is neither Greek nor Jew, as we all maintain, then our work is to hand on to every nation the gospel of Christ, in order that they may bring the riches of their own temperament and past into the universal understanding of the fullness of Christ. Since that is our objective, then the old idea that we of the white race are in a privileged position has got to go. Daily we ought to thank God for the splendid examples of our missionary family to labor under the stress and strain of war completely free from any race superiority. We need to pray: God, our Father, give us today a vision of the world's need of a Saviour, and help us here and now to give ourselves more wholly and completely to the task of making disciples of all nations. Amen.

Matthew 28:20. Love. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Christ is indeed with us all these days. His Spirit does indeed go forth conquering and to conquer, to renew in us—what, God forgive us, we so often forget—the confidence that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the knowledge that only in His kingdom can we attain those lesser ends which we desire, the certainty that today, tomorrow, a thousand years hence, His prayer will come to its fulfillment, His Kingdom, His Will shall come on earth as in heaven. May He instill in each one of us the spirit of service, of love for all who have need, a rising tide that sweeps around the world under the power of Christ, penetrates all lands, all classes, all peoples.

Acts 1:6. The Kingdom. "Lord, dost thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus spoke much about the Kingdom of God, about sin and righteousness, about repentance and forgiveness, about faith and love, about salvation. Church members are very likely to speak chiefly about property and finance, even then they talk Church: Jesus talked about souls. We are inclined to talk about numbers; Jesus talked about values. We are likely to deal with the present; Jesus dealt largely with the future based on the present, and growing out of it. Jesus spoke much about things of the heart—sin, repentance, forgiveness, trust, love, peace; the transformed life these produce; and the eternal life they bring, lies in the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1:7. Preparation. "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." This was a polite way of saying: Men, this question you have asked pertains to a matter which is really none of your business now. This is a matter about which statesmen make cautious moves with great show of skill and learning; but which, in reality, the Father holds in His

own hand, and determines as He sees fit. You, says Jesus, are called to a higher task. You are God's ambassadors to negotiate the terms of a world empire, not based on racial lines, or geographic boundaries; but on the ground of desire for God-likeness in life, and eternal salvation. Then Jesus gave them His missionary program. Preparation came first.

Acts 1:8. First, at Home. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem . . ." God always does His work in an orderly, logical, systematic way. To the disciples, the first missionaries, Jesus said: "Begin at Jerusalem." They were to start at home. That was the natural way to begin. Every Christian, and every Christian congregation, ought to have the Inner Mission Impulse. The time is coming when the whole world will see that the only thing worth anything is human life. As God's workman, using His means by His grace, have I ever saved a human life for Him? Soon the disciples were branching out. They did not confine themselves to their own race or class. There were others hungering for the Gospel close by. We call that Home Mission work; work outside of our own congregation, but in our own land, and more or less, among our own people. This call for help must be answered daily.

Acts 1:8. Always, Everywhere. "And in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Soon unexpected doors were opened to the apostles, and others. Where doors were opened they entered. Unexpected recruits enlisted in the ranks of the workers for the cause of the Saviour crucified. The final step in Christ's missionary program was that of carrying the Gospel, of witnessing Jesus, to the ends of the earth. That is the Foreign Mission challenge through the ages. In spite of all that has been done by the Church during the last century in the way of missions, only a beginning has been made. The task before us is staggering in its proportions. During these war days the work is being diabolically opposed at almost every step. But we dare not falter. God's conquests are the souls of men, won by love through the Gospel of love. You and I are His armor-bearers and through us God will win the victory.

• Bibliography

"Ecclesia Plantanda"—Board of American Missions.

"What Is The Church Doing?"—Henry P. Van Deusen.

India: "They Called Him Father"—Theodore Bachman.

South America: "A Pastor Wings Over South America"—Dr. Samuel Trexler.

China: "John and Betty Stamm, Martyrs"—Lee S. H.

Africa: "The Moffats"—Ethel D. Hubbard.

General: "For the Healing of the Nations"—Henry P. Van Deusen.

Missionary Worship Programs, Series 11, by Alice G. Kelsey. A series of ten programs which include stories, suggestions for dramatization, choric readings, poems, prayers, and Scripture passages. (Can be ordered through the Education Division, 723 Muhlenberg Building, 1228 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.—25 cents.)

• Illustrations

An artist was asked to paint a picture of a decaying church. To the astonishment of many, instead of putting on the canvas an old, tottering building, he painted a richly-carved pulpit, a magnificent organ, and beautiful stained glass windows. But—and here the artist's idea of a decaying church was made known—right above the offering plate there hung a square box bearing the words, "For Foreign Missions", and right over the slot through which

contributions ought to have gone he painted a huge cobweb!

—Northern Christian Advocate, 1938

A quarter of a century ago, Dr. James R. Mott said, "Unless our mission boards triple the number of missionaries in Japan at once, within a generation we will be facing a hundred thousand bayonets in that land!"—Pamphlet of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, Chicago, 1941.

A Chinese Christian asked the Archbishop of Canton how many clergymen there were in England. The Archbishop asked how many he thought there were. "It is a small island," the Chinese replied, "perhaps there are a thousand." The Archbishop said, "No, there are more than twenty thousand." "Then," said the Chinese Christian, "You can easily spare a thousand for China."—The Christian Century, 1939.

There has come to you some bit of a call to service, to teach a class, to speak a word, or to take up something that needed to be done. You hesitate. You think that you cannot. You are not fit, you think; not qualified. The thing to do is to do it. If the call is clear, go ahead. Need is one of the strong calling voices of God. It is always safe to respond. Put out your foot, even though you cannot see clearly the place to put it down. God attends to that part. Power comes as we go.—"Quiet Talks on Service", Samuel D. Gordon. Page 37, Charles Scribner & Sons.

Dore, the artist, crossing the Italian border, had mislaid his passport and was called upon to prove his identity. He did this by taking a sheet of common paper and a piece of charcoal, and tracing the features of Victor Emmanuel. Challenged by the world as we are, is it not for us to trace here and now, in our everyday lives, the characters of our King? "By this shall men know that ye are my disciples."

—Charles C. Albertson, "Vision of Christ", MacMillan, 1911

CHRIST OF THE EVERYWHERE

Christ of the Andes, Christ of the Everywhere.

Great Lover of the hills, the open air,

And patient Lover of impatient men

Who blindly strive and sin and strive again—

Thou Living Word, larger than any creed,

Thou Love Divine, uttered in human need—

Oh, teach the world, warring and wandering

still,

The way to Peace, the footpath of

Good Will!

—Henry van Dyke

LIVE CHRIST

Live Christ!—and though the way may be

In this world's sight adversity,

He who doth heed thy every need

Shall give thy soul prosperity.

Live Christ!—and though the road may be

The narrow street of poverty,

He had not where to lay His head,

Yet lived in largest liberty.

Live Christ!—and though the road may be

The straight way of humility,

He who first trod that way of God

Will clothe thee with His dignity.

Live Christ!—and though thy life may be

In much a valedictory,

The heavy cross brings seeming loss,

But wins the crown of victory.

Live Christ!—and all thy life shall be

A His Way of Delivery—

A Royal Road of goodly deeds,

Gold-paved with sweetest charity.

Live Christ!—and all thy life shall be

A sweet uplifting ministry,

A sowing of the fair white seeds

That fruit through all eternity.

—John Oxenham

(Suggested Poem: "Jesus Christ—And We" by Annie Johnson Flint.

Statistics About Our Foreign Mission Fields

	India	Liberia	Japan	Br. Guiana	Argentina	China
Year Organized	1842	1860	1892	1915	1918	1925
Number National Workers	3,372	63	50	36	24	61
Number Missionaries	84	30	32	2	12	20
Congregations	2,303	72	44	12	12	70
Membership	198,530	2,796	5,240	1,395	1,787	6,076

Use map from "Spotlight On Our Fields" by Nona M. Diehl and Selma R. Bergner, published by Board of Foreign Missions—Women's Missionary Society—1944. Page 7—Map of Lutherans in the World.

TOPIC STUDY CONTINUATIONS » »

For APRIL 15—Continued

● Questions and Comments for Discussion

I don't believe in foreign missions. Why inflict our religion on other people? The religions of the Chinese, Hindus and the like are as good for them as Christianity is for us.

America is a Christian country. Why do we need missions here?

Let the Government do it.

I'm a good member of my local church. I don't need to worry.

We have to pay off the mortgage on our church first.

The Christian missionary enterprise is the chief force making for world brotherhood today.

Because of extensive social welfare movements and the rise of strong national churches in every land, missions will soon be unnecessary.

● Methods

For variety we suggest that a skit or radio program be presented. Costumes and a brief resume of each mission could be presented. A pageant could be worked out, one person representing each one of our missions.

For APRIL 22

(Continued from Page 24)

● Questions

What is Life Service?

Give some examples of life service in the present day in which we live.

What is the purpose of the Life Service Program?

What are the aims and goals of the Life Service Program that we can help fulfill?

How can we answer the call of the Life Service Program?

● Bible Readings

Acts 20:19. Paul served with lowliness of mind.

I Timothy 3:10. One way of serving your church.

I Peter 5:5. The younger people are subject to the older people. Serve one another.

Romans 12:1. Our lives are to be given to God. God so desires this.

I Timothy 1:12. Timothy was happy to be allowed to serve.

Psalms 100. We are to serve the Lord with gladness.

● Quotations

No one of us is a fraction of the man or woman we ought to be.—Robert E. Speer

"Oh, for a man to arise in me that the man I am might cease to be."—Anon.

Is your place a small place?
Tend it with care!
He set you there.

Is your place a large place?
Guard it with care!
He set you there.

Whate'er your place, it is
Not yours, alone, but His
Who set you there.

—John Oxenham

O Lord,
I would be great—
But not in some spectacular way
For world acclaim
Beyond my talents
Lie outstanding deeds, perhaps;
But Lord, I would be great
In faithfulness to each small task
Thou givest me,
To do the best I can
With what I have
For Thy name's sake.
And if, some day, Thou sendest me

Some task that seems too big
For hands that only little deeds have done,
I know that what I cannot do,
Thou canst, through me, if I, but will,
And in Thy strength
I'll do the thing that is too big for me.
Help me, O Lord, to stand approved
In faithfulness to every task.
Thus, in Thy sight
I will be great.

—Hattie B. McCroehen

For APRIL 29

(Continued from Page 25)

How Can I Help?

If you are meeting jointly with him, you can be of great help to him by setting an example. Show him that your Church Membership means something to you and that you have a sense of responsibility for anything you undertake for Christ and His Kingdom on earth. Conduct the business of the League in a decorous manner and help him overcome his desire to giggle and take everything as a big joke. Encourage habits of cleanliness in body and mind. Help him in every possible way. Do not laugh at his mistakes, but praise him for his successes. If he is your brother or sister, tell the Superintendent about his talents. Does he play some musical instrument? Does he like to draw? Does he like public speaking in school? Is he interested in stamps? Is he interested in collecting just any old thing? Perhaps his "anything" might be changed into a collection of things from definite countries and thus his missionary instinct encouraged.

If there is no Intermediate group in your church, two or three members of your group could divide the various duties and promote the program. One could assist with the devotionals, another with the socials and the third with the business and service activities. Let them meet an hour earlier than the Young People and thus you can help them and still meet with your own group. Keep the Intermediate busy with service projects around the church. Their desire for activities should be fulfilled by keeping them busy with the work of the Kingdom. If we are to obey the admonition which St. Paul gives to Timothy in our Scripture lesson, we will eagerly desire to pass on to another that which we have learned.

If at all possible, the Intermediate should have his own group program, for his needs are not the same as those of a Senior or Young People's group. His development into true Christian growth requires that these needs be met with a program suited to his requirements. He calls to you, "Come

over and help us." Will you heed his call?

● Questions

Are there any differences between the Intermediates and Senior goals (or standards) of our State and Synodical League?

In how many definite ways can our Young People's group help with the Intermediate work of our Luther League?

If we do not have an Intermediate group, what plans should we make to organize one?

How will an Intermediate group help our particular Young People's group?

Do we know of any Intermediates who should be in our Intermediate Luther League?

● Bible Readings

II Chronicles 34:1-7. Josiah did not wait until he was old to begin to serve his God. He used his knowledge and power as king to promote the ways of the God of his father David.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7. We should remember God while we are young before the frailties of old age come upon us.

I Timothy 3:14-17. After we have learned the things of God as children, we should continue steadfast and confident in our faith in Christ.

I Timothy 4:12-16. Timothy is a young man, but St. Paul expects him to be an example in word and deed. He is to use his talents for the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

Matthew 19:16-22. This young man would not put Christ first in his life. Like him, many of us keep the outward law, but Christ is not given first place in our lives. We let possession and pleasure crowd out our love for Him and our duty to Him.

Philippians 4:4-9. God's peace will come to our troubled hearts and minds if we will trust in Him. The true and just things which we have learned, we are to do.

I Timothy 6:11-16. At our Confirmation we professed Christ before many witnesses. Are we keeping this promise by continuing this witness to those who follow in our footsteps?

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TOPICS STUDIES SECOND QUARTER, 1945

YOUNG PEOPLE

APRIL

- 1 The Certainty of the Resurrection
John 21
- 8—Things We Ought To Know
—About the Educational Program
Psalms 78:1-8
- 15—Things We Ought To Know
—About the Missionary Program
Acts 1:8
- 22—Things We Ought To Know
—About the Life Service Program
Isaiah 6:1-8
- 29—Program for Intermediates

MAY

- 6—Life Service Day
- 13—She Kept All These Things in Her Heart
Luke 2:46-51
- 20—The Inseparable Friend
John 14:16-18
- 27—The Supreme Fellowship
1 John 5:7

JUNE

- 3—Planning Life's Partnership
Genesis 24:1-28
- 10—The Marriage Service
Genesis 24:63-67
- 17—What a Christian Home Should Be
Colossians 3:15; 4:2
- 24—What To Do When Trouble Comes
James 5:13-16

Financial Reports

WAR SERVICE REPORT

January 6, 1945

Northern California	\$ 7.26
Southern California	
Canada	75.82
Columbia District	
Connecticut	
Florida	5.00
Georgia-Alabama	22.48
Illinois	27.58
Indiana	62.09
Iowa	21.40
Kansas	37.35
Kentucky-Tennessee	28.00
Maryland	64.25
Michigan	4.00
Midwest	146.80
Minnesota	1.00
Mississippi	13.25
Montana	5.00
Nebraska	15.15
New Jersey	62.00
New York	181.42
North Carolina	166.80
Ohio	20.75
Pacific Northwest	5.00
Pennsylvania:	
Central Pennsylvania	213.19
Ministerium	378.34
Pittsburgh	115.09
Rocky Mountain	5.25
South Carolina	234.57
Texas	44.73
Virginia	74.06
West Virginia	38.63
Wisconsin	25.67
	<u>\$2,101.92</u>

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DUES REPORT

January 6, 1945

	1945 Quota	Paid
Northern California		
Southern California	\$270.25	
Canada		
Columbia District		
Connecticut		
Florida	45.75	
Georgia-Alabama	82.75	
Illinois	221.25	
Indiana	106.25	
Iowa	114.50	
Kansas		
Kentucky-Tennessee	60.00	
Maryland		
Michigan	81.50	
Midwest	140.00	
Minnesota		
Mississippi		
Montana	10.00	
Nebraska		
2—New Jersey	186.75	\$186.75
New York	300.00	
North Carolina	738.25	
Ohio		
Pacific Northwest	25.00	
Pennsylvania:		
Central Pennsylvania		
Ministerium	1,112.00	
Pittsburgh	309.50	
Rocky Mountain		
South Carolina		
Texas	43.75	
Virginia	228.25	
1—West Virginia	43.75	43.75
Wisconsin		
		<u>\$230.50</u>

MISSIONARY PROJECT REPORT

February 6, 1945

	Quota	Paid
Northern California	\$48.00	
Southern California	129.00	
4—Canada	150.00	\$283.05
Columbia District	48.00	35.72
Connecticut	137.00	118.10
Florida	76.00	
6—Georgia-Alabama	165.00	165.01
3—Illinois	417.00	491.70
Indiana	201.00	146.20
5—Iowa	265.00	265.00
11—Kansas	201.00	201.00
10—Kentucky-Tennessee	69.00	73.53
Maryland	505.00	387.98
2—Michigan	131.00	151.42
12—Midwest	140.00	157.16
Minnesota	218.00	109.00
Mississippi	23.00	22.40
7—Montana	12.50	12.50
Nebraska	158.00	94.93
1—New Jersey	198.00	247.78
New York	1,006.00	717.98
9—North Carolina	1,239.00	1,241.50
Ohio	549.00	263.00
Pacific Northwest	68.00	
Pennsylvania:		
Central Pennsylvania	1,237.00	975.60
Ministerium	2,185.00	1,488.00
Pittsburgh	630.00	373.56
Rocky Mountain	56.00	42.50
South Carolina	655.00	440.95
Texas	120.00	42.01
Virginia	646.00	79.05
West Virginia	92.00	73.32
8—Wisconsin	110.00	110.00
		<u>\$8,811.95</u>

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SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP FUND

January 1, 1945 to January 31, 1945

	Quota	Total Paid	Loyalty	Cont'g	Gift
Northern California	\$25.00				
Southern California	50.00	\$ 5.00		\$ 5.00	
Canada	240.00				
Columbia District	20.00				
Connecticut	35.00				
Florida	30.00				
Georgia-Alabama	85.00	10.00			\$10.00
Illinois	180.00				
Indiana	100.00				
Iowa	85.00				
Kansas	125.00				
Kentucky-Tennessee	50.00				
Maryland	275.00	10.00	\$10.00		
Michigan	80.00	3.00		3.00	
Midwest	130.00				
Minnesota	80.00				
Mississippi	15.00				
Montana	15.00				
Nebraska	85.00	10.00	10.00		
New Jersey	130.00	28.00	5.00	18.00	5.00
New York	420.00	12.00	10.00	2.00	
North Carolina	520.00				
Ohio	300.00				
Pacific Northwest	25.00				
Pennsylvania:					
Central Penna.	470.00	29.00	20.00	9.00	
Ministerium	800.00	48.00	10.00	28.00	10.00
Pittsburgh	320.00	5.00			5.00
Rocky Mountain	20.00				
South Carolina	325.00	2.00		2.00	
Texas	45.00				
Virginia	240.00	1.00		1.00	
West Virginia	45.00	5.00			5.00
Wisconsin	25.00				
		<u>\$168.00</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>	<u>\$68.00</u>	<u>\$35.00</u>

CHOOSING A LIFE-WORK THAT SATISFIES

(Continued from Page 3)

another job if necessary. Many people make a life-work choice other than that originally made in the early years of life. This may be due to several factors.

First of all, one may simply have made a wrong choice. The best thing to do is to accept the fact, admit that one did make a wrong choice and then determine to make a wiser choice the second time.

Secondly, some people make a wrong choice because they have decided in haste. There is a fear of not finding a place in life. This leads to an unwise choice of a life job, to an unfortunate decision to quit school for what looked like a promising job, to hasty marriages, to joining the armed forces, etc. Sometime later, and in one's leisure, the mistaken choice is realized. Then the only thing to do is to admit it and start again.

Thirdly, some unwise choices are made as the result of parental pressure. As mentioned before, some parents will practically force a son or daughter into a life work he or she does not like. The parents themselves are making the biggest mistake in their lives. The boy who allows himself to be thus persuaded, because of what he calls his love for his parents, will some day realize that he made an unwise choice. Even though at the time he convinced himself that the choice was his own, he now realizes that he would be much happier in another kind of work. The thing for him to do then is to make a clean confession of the mistake, decide upon the occupation which will bring more satisfaction, and resolutely enter it.

Such a change may require going back to school. It may call for securing additional training. It may demand the expenditure of both time and money. It may take a man far away from his old home town. However, if he is going to make a choice of work that brings satisfaction and success, the change may need to be made. Everyone has a right to change when he feels that the change is necessary. If at times one cannot enter into the newly-chosen field immediately, it may be possible to continue at the old job and to continue to study and prepare himself until the opportunity arrives to make the change. The principle which we accept here is: Be willing to make a change, if necessary.

One's life-work must bring him success and satisfaction. If he is unhappy and a feeling of frustration prevails, this spirit will permeate all he says and does, thus bringing him deeper and deeper into the mire of dissatisfaction and discontent. One of the most invigorating experiences of life is that of working at a job one likes. This is a vitally important matter—choosing a life-work that satisfies.

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WHAT TO DO IN LENT

(Continued from Page 7)

always to remember our Lord by reading together something He said or did. It is good to think together of what ought to be done for His sake—some sick one to see; some tempted one to strengthen; some sad one to cheer; some wronged one to help; so many things to do. Then each quietly goes and does what God shows you He wants done. Then meet again together with Him and you will find your hearts rejoicing like the Apostles who came back to Jesus and said, "Lord, even the devils are subject to us". He has that power to share with us today if we open ourselves to it in humble obedience, tender, true prayer and the communion of a cell or prayer-group.

If Educational Secretaries and mature League members teach this in our Leagues this month, no one can foresee how great may be the blessing, or how many will be saved from sin, sorrow and death through praying together in His Name.

A SAILOR'S PROPOSAL FOR V-DAY

(Continued from Page 8)

Could we not close all bars and places of amusement for one day and fill all our churches instead on that great Day? Is it not God Who giveth the victory? Or is that asking too much of a great nation like our own? I think if we could so spend the first day of victory, neither New York nor any other city would need riot squads to handle a worldly celebration the following day. I also believe that complete world peace and world victory would come to us sooner if we had that spirit. Are we as a nation ready for peace?

WINFIELD GILHAM, S.M. 3/c

★ ★ ★

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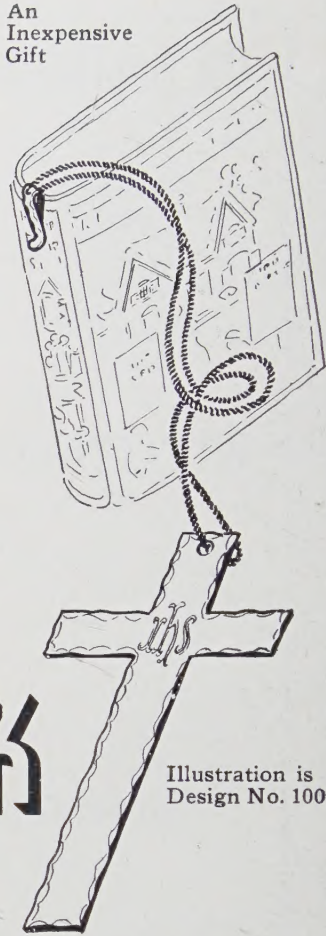


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